



Thursday, October 18, 2018

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Riverside development would involve widening the Stour

PLAN FOR NEW MEDICAL CENTRE

Report by Dayna Farrington

A NEW medical centre could be built in Stourbridge.

Revelan Group Limited have submitted plans to Dudley Council for a medical centre on empty land in Bradley Road.

It would include theatre suites, an outpatients department, along with theatre, day case and physiotherapy suites, plus administration and office space for staff. Parking spaces will also be provided for patients and staff.

It would also see flood alleviation works carried out to the River Stour, as the site is located in close proximity to the river's flood zone, which would see work to widen the river.

The site is currently vacant having been previously occupied by commercial buildings, that have since been demolished. It is not yet known how many jobs would be created, if the medical centre is given the go ahead.

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward councillor Nicolas Barlow said it was great news to see this kind of investment in Stourbridge but was also concerned that an increase in traffic in that area could add to existing congestion on the A491 High Street.

Neglected

Councillor Barlow said: "I think this is an excellent proposal, revitalising a long-neglected part of Stourbridge. It is great to see a high-profile company focused on developing and not just for housing. We need to see more investment in and around Stourbridge like this."

"Naturally, any development will have to bear in mind the nature of the site being near to the River Stour and the Stourbridge Canal but anything along here is going to be a vast improvement to what is already here."

"One factor we have to consider, is the increased level of traffic along dead-end roads in that vicinity and are already congested A491. I cannot see how the council's Highways Officers can improve the roads without some additional support from Highways England."

A design and access statement, submitted with the application, states: "The proposed development will seek to provide a new high quality, facility for the delivery of medical services within the local community."

"The hours of operation will be 12 hours a day, six days a week. It will be open 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and closed on Sunday."

COUNCIL

£1m for an upgrade at the crematorium

UP to £1 million could be spent on upgrading Stourbridge Crematorium to extend the chapel, improve welfare facilities and install two new cremators.

The works at South Road are expected to start in February and Dudley Council has set aside a budget of £1m for the scheme.

But Conservative Norton councillor Colin Ecock didn't see why money needed to be spent. He said: "I don't think the upgrade is needed. The people of Stourbridge are happy with how the crematorium operates at the moment. I have been to a couple of funerals there in the last few months and the decor and general appearance of the place is excellent."

PLANNING

Depot extension finally approved

WORKS to expand a council depot could start in a matter of weeks after amended plans got the green light.

The scheme, which will see a new car park and offices being built at the site on Lister Road in Dudley, had been opposed by residents and Dudley North MP Ian Austin because it encroached on playing fields.

Since then, the plans were changed so that the fields are not affected.

HOUSING

New homes scheme in Dudley town centre

NINETEEN homes could be built in the heart of Dudley town centre, under new plans lodged with council bosses.

An application to build 19 apartments on land at the corner of School Street and Wolverhampton Street has been submitted to Dudley Council.

It would include 15 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments.

INSIDE

STARS OUT FOR DUNCAN DINNER



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IT'S A THRILLER AS KIERAN LANDS JACKSON ROLE



Kieran Edwards is starring as Michael Jackson in Motown: The Musical, which opened in Birmingham this week. Picture: Tristram Kenton

A SCHOOLBOY from Tividale has been cast as Michael Jackson in a major stage show that's going on a UK-wide tour.

Kieran Edwards, a Year 8 student at the Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale, is starring as the pop superstar in Motown: The Musical.

Twelve-year-old Kieran will represent the young Michael Jackson and his early pop and

soul music career in the hit show, as it visits 11 cities, performing at theatres including Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre, where it opened this week and continues until November 3.

The musical follows the career of Motown record label founder Berry Gordy and the creation of his musical empire, which started out in Detroit, nicknamed the Motor City.

Other acts being recreated in the show include Diana Ross and the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, as well as Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5.

Kieran said: "I was so excited to find out that I had been selected for the part, I couldn't really believe it. Everyone at school has been really supportive and excited for me. Michael Jackson is such an icon."

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Tunisia attack families to sue TUI



Charles Evans, Joel Richards, Adrian Evans

FAMILIES of the Tunisia terror attack victims are suing travel agent TUI.

Thirty British tourists were murdered in the attack – including three members of the same Black Country family.

Legal firm Irwin Mitchell has served formal court papers against TUI on behalf of the families of 22 of the victims. The case centres on security at the Imperial Marhaba Hotel in Sousse and an alleged lack of travel safety information presented to customers.

At the conclusion of the six-week inquest into the deaths last year, coroner Judge Nicholas Loraine-Smith did reject suggestions 'neglect' by travel companies played any part in the deaths.

But the inquest, which ruled the victims were unlawfully killed, revealed security guards at the hotel were poorly trained and there was limited CCTV coverage.

Following the hearing, Suzy Evans, from Wednesbury, said she planned to launch civil action against TUI. Her 19-year-old son

Joel, her brother Adrian Evans and father Patrick Evans, were victims. Youngest son Owen, then 16, survived the attack in June 2015.

Kylie Hutchison, a specialist personal injury lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "We have now served formal civil proceedings on TUI claiming damages."

A TUI spokesman said: "As this is now subject to legal proceedings it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage, except to say we will fully cooperate with the judicial process."

Public space protection order may be extended

A PUBLIC space protection order (PSPO) could be brought in across the whole of a Dudley borough, under new plans being considered by the council.

Council bosses at a recent meeting said they will 'seriously' consider extending a PSPO currently in force at Fens Pool Nature Reserve to combat anti-social behaviour and the use of illegal off-road bikes into a borough-wide scheme.

More than 2,000 people signed Dudley South MP Mike Wood's petition earlier this year, which he presented to the House of Commons in February, calling for the PSPO. The move was originally started by Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

Councillor David Stanley was concerned they biker yobs would just move to another area of the borough. He said: "I think it would make common sense to do the whole of the borough with this public space protection order, so we don't just move them from one place to another."

"Perhaps we could look at doing a blanket public space protection order for the whole of the borough like our neighbours have done in Sandwell. If they can do it I am sure Dudley can."

Pilot

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for environmental services, said the move was something the authority would 'seriously' consider moving forward, describing the current PSPO as a 'pilot scheme'.

"Obtaining the order is not the difficult part, it is the enforcement which is the difficult part and that is the part which the police undertakes," he said.

"Certainly it is a good idea. We want to look into that but it is important that we obtain the police's view and make sure they are on board when this order is taken further."

"We will look into it seriously."

Homes that can be delivered on a lorry



With the Totally Modular two bedroom house is designer Mark Ferriday, right, and managing director John Connolly

A BLACK Country company believes it has a solution to the housing crisis – factory-built homes that roll off the production line.

They come with fitted kitchens and bathrooms, ready to be plugged in when they reach the building site.

Two factories in the region could now be turned over to full-time production of the homes, churning out 1,000 a year and creating up to 700 new jobs.

Backed by the owners of the two

factories – one in Cradley Heath and the other in Tyseley in Birmingham – Totally Modular, which is based in Cradley, aims to become the first privately-owned company in the West Midlands making ready-to-go homes.

Completed units can be carried to building sites on the back of a lorry and craned into position, ready to have plumbing and other services connected and carpets laid and leaving them ready to move into just a week after arrival.

Currently Totally Modular is geared up to make the homes at its base on the Cradley Business Park, where managing director John Connolly's Kingfisher steel fabrication business is based.

Mr Connolly said his partners at construction company ALS, in Birmingham, are ready to convert their premises as part of plans to create a housebuilding business across both sites employing up to 900 people that could produce up to 1,000 two-bedroom homes a year.

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Tickets for pub's second four-day feast of comedy

TV comics Lost Voice Guy and Angelos Epithemiou will take centre stage when a pub hosts its second four-day comedy festival next month.

The duo are among 13 professional acts who will perform as part of Fitz Fest 2, which will be held in the marquee at Katie Fitzgerald's in Wollaston, Stourbridge, from November 8 to 11.

Britain's Got Talent winner Lost Voice Guy is headlining the opening night, which has already sold out.

Angelos, who appeared on Shooting Stars and went on to have his own TV series, will headline on November 10.

Tez Ilyas, a fast-rising comic tipped for the top who has already appeared on Mock The Week and Man Like Mobeen, will headline on November 9.

Closing the festival on November 11 will be Paul Tonkinson, former host of Channel 4's The Big Breakfast.

Two more professional support acts will also appear on each bill.

All the nights will be hosted by resident MC Wayne Beese, from Dudley.

The four-day extravaganza is being put on by organisers of the pub's monthly Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club.

Tickets for the remaining three shows cost £15 each, plus booking fees.

For further information or, to buy tickets, go to skiddle.com/e/13305056

Away day burglar gets three years

A BURGLAR from Dudley has been jailed for three years after stealing a wallet from a flat in Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury Crown Court was told that the wallet stolen by Peter Berry, 46, of Dibdale Court, Lower Gornal, contained a letter of sentimental value.

Berry, who was found with a knife in his possession, was also found guilty of two counts of attempted burglary after kicking two shopfronts in the town centre on the same night, November 1. He had also stolen CDs from a car.

The resident woke to see Berry in his flat, realised his wallet – containing a letter from his father – was missing and followed the crook to the nearby railway station. Representing Berry, Alexander Wright described it as "opportunistic, drunken offending".

Take a butchers at housing scheme

A FORMER butcher's shop and abattoir could be demolished to make way for housing, under new plans lodged with Dudley Council.

The Tomlinson's premises in Commonside, Pensnett, would be replaced with three homes.

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Book early for discount at bonfire spectacular

PEOPLE are being urged to book discounted tickets for Himley Bonfire next month – after it was revealed premium tickets have now sold out.

More than 1,500 tickets have already been sold for the 20,000 capacity bonfire event on November 3.

This year's bonfire will celebrate inspirational heroes and heroines from the world of entertainment and sport, as well as family members and people who are remarkable in their own way.

As a respectful commemoration of the end of the First World War, 100 years on a unique tribute will also be paid.

The towering bonfire of 1,500 pallets will be the centrepiece and there will be a 25-minute fireworks display synchronised to music.

Visitors can also enjoy the Heart 100.7 roadshow, a giant funfair, a night market, live entertainment and seasonal refreshments.

Councillor Keiran Casey, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "Tickets are flying off the shelves and the premium tickets are now all sold out. I would encourage everyone to book online now and save up to 20 per cent on their tickets."

A standard adult ticket is £10, standard child and senior citizen is £5.50. Gates open at 4.30pm, the bonfire is lit at 7.45pm.

Patriotic music at Armistice concert

A CONCERT to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that saw the end of the First World War will be held in Stourbridge Town Hall next weekend.

Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra will be presenting a mixed programme of songs of the trenches, music hall favourites and classical pieces, including Holst's Mars and Venus, on Saturday, October 27 at 7pm.

The choir and orchestra, conducted by Martin Sleaford, will also perform Last Night at the Proms favourite Jerusalem.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 children aged 16 and under, and tickets can be obtained by calling (01384) 373111 or at the boroughhalls.co.uk website, box office (01384) 812812.

Festive craft fair

A CHRISTMAS craft fair is being held in Sedgley Community Centre, off Ladies Walk, on November 3.

Sedgley Evening Townswomen's Guild is holding the free event from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

New hub offers carers a helping hand



Councillor John Martin at the hub with Nicola McGregor and Paul Astley

A NEW information hub, which offers support and advice to borough carers, has opened its doors in Dudley.

The carers hub, based at Queens Cross Network on Wellington Road, aims to support anyone who is caring for a relative, neighbour or friend who has a long term illness, disability or is elderly and frail.

Dudley Council runs the facility, which aims to improve the lives of local carers to ensure they receive all of the practical help, advice and support they need to ease their caring responsibilities.

It's open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and people are able to pop in at times that suit them.

Staff will be on hand to offer information and advice regarding their caring role, as well as emotional and wellbeing support, respite services and support planning.

Carers can also find out about local community groups that could offer an opportunity to socialise with people going through similar experiences.

Councillor John Martin, cabinet member for adult social care, joined carers co-ordinator Nicola McGregor

and Paul Astley, from Queens Cross Network, for the official opening last week. He said: "Carers play a crucial role in our communities with many working round the clock caring for a loved one or friend. We appreciate how difficult it can be for carers to find the time to seek advice and support. With our new hub, carers can pop in or pick up the phone at a time that suits them."

People are encouraged to visit the hub, call (01384) 818723 or email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk to find out how the service can support them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council rating tattoo parlours

RESIDENTS in Dudley thinking of getting a tattoo or piercing can find out the cleanest and safest places to go thanks to a new scheme.

Businesses offering such services can request an official hygiene check, which will provide customers with the information they need.

The programme, similar to the food hygiene ratings system that has been running for a number of years, aims to raise standards and help ensure the public is well informed when deciding which business to use. It also includes businesses that offer semi-permanent make-up.

See www.dudley.gov.uk for details.

Winter opening for cafe at the hall

A POPULAR coffee lounge at one of the area's most famous buildings is now set to open all year round.

Due to popular demand, the Dudley Council-run cafe at Himley Hall and Park will be open throughout the autumn and winter seasons.

Since it opened earlier this year, hundreds of visitors have stopped by for a cake and cuppa, or a warming bowl of soup.

The lounge opens directly into the hall's gallery space and is open Wednesday to Sunday, between 11am and 4pm.

Sir Lenny narrates Christmas special

SIR Lenny Henry will narrate much-loved children's picture book Zog when it comes to TV screens this Christmas.

Dudley-born Sir Lenny is lending his voice as the narrator for the animated story of Zog, an accident-prone dragon, when the popular children's book is made into a TV show for BBC One. It was written by The Gruffalo and Room on the Broom author Julia Donaldson and is illustrated by Axel Scheffler. Other famous voices will include Lenny's former Three of a Kind co-star Tracey Ullman.

Roll up, roll up for spooky circus thrills

A HALLOWEEN-THEMED circus will be rolling into Brierley Hill this month.

Gandy's Circus has promised a Halloween 'spooktacular' filled with thrills when it comes to intu Merry Hill shopping centre later this month.

The big top will be set up at the hopping centre's car park between October 26 and November 4. For show times and tickets, visit www.gandyscircus.com website.

Brexit delays debate in Commons on knife law

DEBATE over Brexit has delayed a new law designed to clamp down on knife crime – just days after fatal stabbings in Brierley Hill and Wolverhampton.

The landmark Offensive Weapons Bill was due to go before the House of Commons on Monday.

The legislation aims to introduce strict laws on the sale, delivery and possession of knives. It comes after an investigation by The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star, revealed that a loophole in the law meant machetes with 20-inch blades could be bought.

Richard Helm, 37, was killed in Wolverhampton on Friday, and Christopher Harm, 28, from Gateshead, was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill during the early hours of Saturday – taking the number of people knifed to death across the West Midlands to 13 this year.

But the latest stage of the bill had to be postponed at the last minute – to a date yet to be set – so MPs could debate Brexit developments.

Mike Wood, Conservative MP for Dudley South, said tougher laws were 'vital' in the crackdown on knife crime. He added: "There are some knives that can only be used for violence. We need to take them off our streets."

The legislation places a ban on the possession of so-called 'zombie' knives, reclassifies certain firearms as 'prohibited' and addresses acid attacks by introducing an offence of possessing a corrosive substance in a public place.

Christopher Harm died at Engine Lane, Brierley Hill, from a single stab wound. His family said in a statement: "A loving son, dad and brother gone so tragically and a family left in pieces forever."

Glen Elvin, aged 25, of no fixed address, has been charged with Mr Harm's murder.

Eldest resident Albert dies at 108



A toolmaker in the glass industry, Albert Taylor, from Kingswinford, was among the eldest men in the UK

ONE of the Black Country's oldest residents, 'a devoted family man', has died at the age of 108.

Albert Taylor, from Kingswinford, was among the five oldest men in the UK. Born in 1910, he lived through both world wars, knew a time before television, saw England lift the

World Cup and watched 25 Prime Ministers come and go. He was the eldest and last surviving of seven children and lived in Kingswinford for more than 50 years.

Mr Taylor was taken in to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley with a chest infection before contracting pneumonia. He died on Friday

more than five months after turning 108 in May.

Mr Taylor left school at 14 to work at Stewarts Glassworks in Amblecote as a toolmaker.

He had two sons, Robert and Roger, with his late wife Mary, and has three grandsons, Andrew, Simon and Richard.

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Decorated trees for cone Christmas

IT may only be October but festive preparations are already under way at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley. The historic visitor attraction is gearing up for its Christmas Tree Festival in aid of charities.

Groups and businesses are being asked to provide uniquely decorated trees for the display.

Tourism boss Councillor Keiran Casey said: "We held the first Christmas Tree Festival at the cone last year and it was a huge success, encouraging creativity from local schools, groups and businesses."

For more information contact the venue on (01384) 815571.

Brass band plan winter concerts

ONE of the oldest brass bands in the West Midlands is set to put on its third series of concerts.

The Langley Band will deliver two evenings of its winter concert at the Oldbury Rep, in Spring Walk, with music ranging from pop to classical pieces.

The group was founded in 1878 and includes players aged from 16 to 68. Tickets to the events – on November 23 at 8pm and November 24 at 7.30pm – cost £9 for adults and £5 for children 16 and under.

To buy tickets call (01384) 918547 or for more information on the band visit www.langleyband.co.uk website.

Fitting farewell to driving instructor

A DRIVING instructor was given a fitting farewell with fellow instructors forming a guard of honour on the road at her funeral.

Married mother-of-two Jo Mason, from Sedgley, died aged 48 on September 16 after a tragic accident.

During her funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium 24 instructors lined the cortege's route to pay their respects. The family of Jo, who had been a driving instructor for 13 years, said they really appreciated the gesture.

Shortage of housing is forcing up prices

HOUSE prices are still rising across the West Midlands, due to a lack of new properties on the market. Prices are growing faster in the West Midlands than anywhere else in the country. The latest survey of chartered surveyors in the region found them in gloomy mood, as the shortage of homes on the market also means the number of sales is falling.

University role for acclaimed architect

A RENOWNED Stourbridge-born architect who helped remodel some Birmingham's best-known landmarks and is now overseeing the redevelopment of Paradise Circus has been named as a visiting professor at Birmingham City University's School of Architecture.

Glenn Howells will provide a series of masterclasses for students and offer advice to those training to

enter the profession. Mr Howells established Glenn Howells Architects (GHA) in London before moving its main office to Digbeth, Birmingham, in 1992, whilst retaining an office in the capital. He has built a strong reputation for designing innovative and award-winning buildings throughout the UK.

Key projects include The National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield,

the Savill Building at Windsor, London City Island, English National Ballet headquarters and a 55-storey tower in London's Docklands.

His practice has advised Birmingham City Council on regeneration projects and is involved in HS2, the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village, Paradise Circus, New Garden Square, Kent Street, Zone2 Broad Street, Port Loop and a new £125 million development in the Jewellery Quarter. His previous work includes remodelling the Custard Factory and Rotunda.

Mr Howells said: "I am particularly keen to explore opportunities for the university to be engaged with and be part of the huge transformation that is happening in the city."

His first masterclass is on November 12.

Bid to create new cemetery thrown out by planners

A PLAN to create a huge burial ground near Halfpenny Green airfield has been thrown out due to concerns over the green belt.

A cemetery with space for more than 5,000 plots was earmarked for the site off Six Ashes Road, near Bobbington, but the proposal has been refused by planning bosses at South Staffordshire Council.

It was hoped the move would create much-needed burial space, serving the needs of Dudley, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.

But Four Ashes Estate, which lodged the application, could now be forced to go back to the drawing board.

Planners said the cemetery bid did not meet the 'very special circumstances' needed to build on green belt land, while there were also concerns it would lead to more traffic going through the village.

Documents submitted with the plans said the development would have provided a 'privately-owned, multi-faith place of natural burial to cater for present and anticipated shortfalls of natural burial grounds within the region', including up to 5,200 plots.

A council report outlining the reasons for refusal said: "The proposed development is contrary to policies of the core strategy and would introduce a new burial site in a fairly remote location which would be heavily reliant on car use. Insufficient information has been provided to determine the impact of the proposed development on the public highway."

Travellers on town centre car park

A GROUP of travellers moved onto a car park in Dudley town centre at the weekend.

The caravans arrived at the Flood Street car park late on Saturday and into the early hours of Sunday morning.

A Dudley Council spokesman said they are currently trying to find a solution to have the travellers moved off as soon as possible.

One resident said there were around 15 caravans, lorries and cars occupying part of the car park.

St Thomas's ward Councillor Shaukat Ali said he believed they were the same group who had previously been at Lister Road.

He said: "We are working with the council to get them moved on as soon as possible."

Neighbouring trust to help hospital improve

By Dayna Farrington

HEALTH bosses have brought in a neighbouring hospital trust to support improvements at Russells Hall Hospital's crisis-hit accident and emergency department.

The Dudley Group Foundation NHS Trust has enlisted the help of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust to improve sepsis management and its emergency services.

It comes after health watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC) said they remained 'extremely concerned' over care at the emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital, giving it a rating of 'inadequate'.

In a highly critical report, inspectors reported that some staff had told them they would not be happy sending members of their own family to Russells Hall Hospital.

Advising

It is now understood that staff from New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton have been sent to Russells Hall to help with sepsis management, while some of its physicians are advising the Dudley trust's emergency department.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley trust, said: "We recognise the need to make the changes necessary at pace and have liaised with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, recently rated as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission, to share best practice as well as quality improvement methodology.

"We are pleased Royal Wolverhampton Trust has agreed to work with us to complement the existing support we have for our emergency department."

A spokesman for the Royal Wolverhampton Trust confirmed it was providing the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust with support.

Ex-constable is lucky to be alive



Retired policeman Neil Corlett was hit from behind by a car when cycling

A RETIRED policeman was left for dead after he was knocked off his bicycle in a hit-and-run incident near Hagley.

Neil Corlett was struck by a black Mercedes in Stackenbridge Lane on September 26.

Cars swerved around Mr Corlett, aged 70, from Kinver, and he had to crawl to the side of the road before anyone stopped to help him. He had an injured shoulder and ribs.

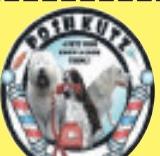
Mr Corlett said: "You could hear him coming, he was travelling quite quickly. There was no rhyme or reason to it. He hit the bike in the back and there was this immense impact. All I remember is hitting the Tarmac with a sickening thud."

"He did not stop. I actually thought I had broken my back. I was then aware of two other cars that swerved around me, I thought I was going to die."

The former West Midlands Police constable had to muster his strength to crawl across the road onto a grassy verge, out of the way of oncoming traffic.

Police and paramedics arrived and Mr Corlett was taken to Russells Hall Hospital. He added: "I am extremely lucky, I came out of it. I am just bemused why it happened. The amount of road rage towards cyclists beggars belief."

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Wrestler to reveal man behind mask at town hall

WRESTLING legend Kendo Nagasaki will smash his way into the ring in the Black Country later this month – launching an autobiography revealing who exactly is behind that famous mask.

The retired cape-wearing wrestler, now aged 76, will be putting down his sword and taking off his mask to reveal his identity to fans during the All Star Promotions event at Dudley Town Hall on October 27. It has been organised as part of a bid to raise £1 million for the Lee Rigby Foundation.

Copies of the new book 'Kendo Nagasaki and the man behind the Mask' will be available to order on the day.

A spokesman for the wrestler said: "Anyone who watched World of Sport in the '70s will remember Big Daddy, Mick McManus, Giant Haystacks, and, of course, Kendo Nagasaki."

Apparently possessed of Samurai skills and a mysterious past, Nagasaki's alarming persona was defined by a full-face mask, a cape, and a sword, combined with an uncompromising and ruthless fighting style which cast him as the baddie of Saturday afternoon TV."

In contrast to his sporting persona, Peter Thornley – the man behind the mask – is a Zen Buddhist who until now has avoided the spotlight.

Tickets cost £15 adults, £10 children, and £45 for a family including two adults and two children.

Karting and laser tag for charities

A GO-KARTING and laser tag night is being held to raise money for charity. The event at Cannon Raceway, in Coseley, on November 2 at 6.30pm, will bring in funds for the Mayor of Dudley Alan Taylor's charities.

Visitors will pay £40 to take part in both activities at the site, in Gough Road, with the money being split between Headway Black Country, which supports brain injury survivors and their carers and families, White House Cancer Support and charity community hub, the Hope Centre, in Halesowen.

Councillor Taylor said: "This will be a fun event for people of all ages."

To book places call 01902 507373 or email cannonraceway@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Old station plan

PLANS to transform the former Stourbridge Police Station have been lodged by Lovell Homes, who want to partly demolish and convert the Victorian building in New Road into 29 apartments and build two new homes.

Council tax rise likely under new bosses



Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe

COUNCIL tax could rise by as much as 4.5 per cent in Dudley after the new Labour leadership said they were unlikely to scrap a planned increase next year.

New council leader Pete Lowe stressed that the authority needs to raise more money to ensure frontline services are protected.

But it would be the second big rise in as many years as council tax was increased by 4.5 per cent earlier this year.

Households are being warned to brace themselves for another steep

hike next spring, which would equate to around £50 extra for the average household.

Councillor Lowe said decisions on the budget had not yet been finalised but admitted it was likely they would stick to the planned council tax rise formulated by the previous Conservative administration.

Authorities can increase council tax for frontline services by three per cent, any more and they would have to call a referendum. However, extra increases can be added to fund social care.

Councillor Lowe said: "I have made clear that is our preference to continue council tax at the current rate and there has been nothing to radically alter that plan."

"The budget was moved by the Conservatives in February for the next three years and I can't think we would radically change that. What we have got to do is look towards an area where we raise revenue in order to protect services."

Dudley Conservative group leader Patrick Harley called for cross-party discussion before decisions are made.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beacon scarefest for little monsters

A SIGHT loss charity is to host a 'spooktacular' Halloween bash for youngsters. The event will take place at Beacon's headquarters in Wolverhampton Road East on October 31.

Parents are being asked to bring their little monsters – aged 11 and under – to join in the event between 2pm and 6pm. Tickets cost £5 and must be bought in advance.

It will be raising funds to help support people living with visual impairment. Children can take part in trick or treating, play gruesome games, listen to spooky stories and dance at the monster disco. Call 01902 880111 or go to beaconvision.org/halloweenbash

Store's bid to be autism friendly

A SUPERMARKET teamed up with a national charity to raise awareness of autism.

The Sainsbury's store in Amblecote was working alongside the National Autistic Society to hold two autism hours last week.

Autism hour was launched last year as the first mass-participation event to encourage shops to adopt a more autism-friendly environment. Measures included turning down the volume on the public address system, turning off music and providing staff with information about autism.

Lots of laughs at pub's re-opening

COMEDIAN Jonny Cole was last night (Wednesday) due to perform at the re-opening of an award-winning pub in Dudley.

The Fountain Inn in Temple Street, Lower Gornal, was re-opening after a £70,000 refurbishment by its new owners, after the real ale pub shut suddenly in January.

The Fountain has been leased by Bill Redwood, who is a former brewery operations director with Sadler's Ales.

The number of real ales on sale is being increased from nine to a dozen.

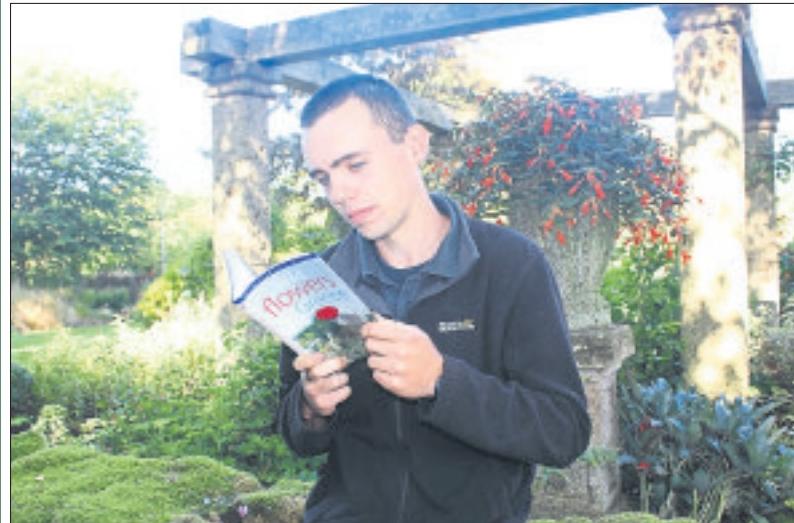
Family history came to life at exhibition

PEOPLE researching their family tree got expert advice on tracing family history during the recent Dudley Archives open day.

Members of the Midland Ancestors Stourbridge Group led the event with members of the Wolverhampton branch at the centre and museum at Tipton Road.

Email stourbridgegroup@midanc.uk to find out more about the Stourbridge group.

Gardener Josh to explore Greece



Josh Tranter will be packing his flower guide books as the internet will not be an option in the mountains

A YOUNG gardener from Ashwood Nurseries is going to the Greek mountains to study young horticulturalists.

Josh Tranter, a gardener at the nurseries near Kingswinford, is off to the Peloponnese next month. Josh's 10-day tour is organised by the Alpine Garden

Society and funded by The Merlin Trust, which provides grants for young horticulturalists.

The 19-year-old was an apprentice at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, gaining a horticulture qualification at Matthew Boulton College, in Birmingham.

Josh, who is from Rowley Regis,

will encounter thousands of plant species during this trip.

"I'll have lots to write about and pictures to take," said Josh. "It will give me a better view of how the plants actually grow in their natural habitat. I will go back to work with much more knowledge."

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Frazzled? Yes I am with talk on climate

HERE we go again. A new report, which says temperatures have risen by one degree centigrade since the start of the Industrial Revolution, warns of dire consequences unless we take drastic action.

Now I was a little surprised we are comparing meteorological data with that of the pre-industrial world, mainly because I would have thought it was the Industrial Revolution which gave us the technology to compile such measurements.

While the Industrial Revolution has no official start date, historians seem to regard it as sometime around 1760, or maybe with the start of construction of the Iron Bridge in 1777.

In context, Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the thermometer in 1714, and the centigrade scale favoured by the climate scientists arrived in 1743. It seems reasonable, therefore, to suggest that climatology was in its infancy during Abraham Darby's day. In which case, one might wonder how accurate this early equipment would be, and whether contrasting today's climate data with that of the mid-1700s is particularly helpful.

Anyhow, no sooner was the ink dry on the report, the usual voices in the London bubble started lecturing us how we must radically change our lifestyles if we are not to be frazzled like barbecued bacon. A writer in The Guardian told us to stop eating meat – or beef and milk at the very least. And, of course, use public transport to get to work.

Always eager to oblige, I went on to the excellent Network West Midlands Journey Planner website to plot my new commute. Choosing the fastest, rather than the greenest option – sorry, but we've all got to start somewhere – it calculated that to arrive at my desk for 8.30am, I would need to leave home at 5.06am. The journey involves two buses, one train, and 38 minutes walking between various points.

This is instead of a normal 45-60 minute drive in the car, depending on roadworks. It seems to me that if the powers-that-be want to reduce the carbon footprint of my journey to work, there are two options.

They could build an HS3 line through Hinley, Wombourne, Tividale and Pattingham, but I suspect this would be neither popular nor environmentally friendly.

Or they could spend a bit on widening the roads – maybe even removing a few bus lanes? – so those of us with no choice but to use our cars spend less time belching out fumes while stuck in traffic. This won't satisfy the desires of The Guardian's hair-shirt brigade. But it might just make our air cleaner.

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Gwyneth Paltrow – on a radio interview she seemed to have become a croaker



Melania Trump – got some flak during her Africa trip for wearing a pith helmet



Susannah Constantine in Strictly Come Dancing did not get praise from columnist

18-30 holes: Well cop a load of this!

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IT is easy to rubbish Labour's suggestion of replacing the standard five-day week with a four-day week. But I once worked in an office where they operated a nine-day fortnight. It meant every alternate weekend was a long weekend. The system was popular and worked well, although we all suspected that, no matter whether it was a four or five-day week, we still worked the same number of hours.

SO farewell, Club 18-30. After 50 years of booze and bawdiness, the brand will soon cease operating. I have a certain fondness for it because, back in 1981, my very first freebie was with 18-30 to Majorca. The company wisely put the press party far away from the debauchery, in a four-star hotel. Each day we were taken out to see the 18-30 holidaymakers disporting themselves. The lads were ladish but it was the tipsy, predatory women that came as a surprise. The ringleader, a big, noisy lass, was barely off the airliner before she went both topless and legless. In journalistic mode, I asked what attracted her to a Club 18-30 holiday. "That," she leered, pointing straight at the crotch of a passing lad. Where was she from? "Nottingham." And what did she do for a living? "Police officer."

THE march of AI (artificial intelligence) goes on, with computers making ever-smarter predictions about human needs. I recently ordered a small cushion on eBay. The computers digested this information and quickly posted a "You may like" message. Based on my order of a cushion, eBay suggested I might also like

to buy: a pair of stabiliser wheels for a child's cycle, a buffing kit for polishing car wheels, a device for stretching an artist's canvas, a digital automatic fish-food dispenser, a fancy-dress bow tie, four reusable eyebrow shaping stencils and a bow for playing a cello. Uncanny, innit?

I WROTE in June about "vocal fry," the US fad for women to adopt a croak-speak, where the end of every sentence trails off into something resembling a frog's voice. It's been some time since I heard the star who spoke with such crystal-clearity in the 1998 movie, Shakespeare in Love. I caught a radio interview with her this week and have to report, with much sadness, that Gwyneth Paltrow has become a croaker.

A SPECIAL Battle's Over beacon to erect in your garden to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, has been unveiled. I was intrigued by the maker's claim about the gas-fired beacon: "Afterwards, it can be stored and used for future events." What, like the end of the Third World War?

THE unstoppable march of Yankslang continues. In that bible of middle England and English values the Daily Mail, no less, a columnist declares that Susannah Constantine in Strictly

Come Dancing (BBC1) "couldn't have gotten much worse." No, indeed.

MELANIA Trump, the President's wife, got some flak during her African trip for wearing that symbol of colonialism, a pith helmet. It's so hard to keep up with politically-correct headgear, isn't it? It's not just the colonial issue. By wearing a hat developed principally by British and French settlers Melania, a Slovenian, was also guilty of cultural appropriation, as she would be if she decided to wear a Mexican sombrero. As it happens, I have a pith helmet. Thankfully, it is not a colonialist pith helmet. I bought it in Vietnam where the Viet Cong guerrillas fighting the Americans adopted the helmets worn by their former colonial masters, the French. So mine is not only an anti-colonial helmet but an anti-American helmet, too. As politically-correct Leftie fashion goes it is right up there with a Che Guevara T-shirt or a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, as worn by Jeremy Corbyn fans everywhere.

CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond promised to raise the threshold at which we start paying income tax to £12,500 from 2020. This would have put an extra £130 a year in every basic rate taxpayer's pocket. Now, faced with an NHS cash crisis there is talk of scrapping the promise. So instead of getting an extra £2.50 a week which we'd hardly notice, collectively we'll be giving our hospitals and nurses an extra £2 billion a year. Now the strange part. In poll after poll, the Brits nobly declare they would gladly support tax rises to help the NHS. Yet now it's happening, you wouldn't believe the whingeing.

TALKING POINT



Fans with something to shout about . . .

It's their secret weapon and it definitely works. Well not exactly secret as most weeks it is deafening. I refer to . . . Wolves football fans.

During the club's recent success they have – from the manager down – attributed their attitude, play and determination to the strong support of the Molineux faithful. The many loyal fans who have stuck by them through the bad times – and there have been plenty of those in the recent past – and now to days back into the big time.

In fact Wolves fans have been named as the loudest of all, according to recent statistics released by an American expert. The team's supporters have sent out a message to the rest of the league when they arrive in Wolverhampton – Come On, Feel The Noise.

And that won't be difficult to believe for anyone who has been inside a raucous Molineux on a Saturday afternoon. So the feel-good factor surrounding the club has transferred to the stands. And why not?

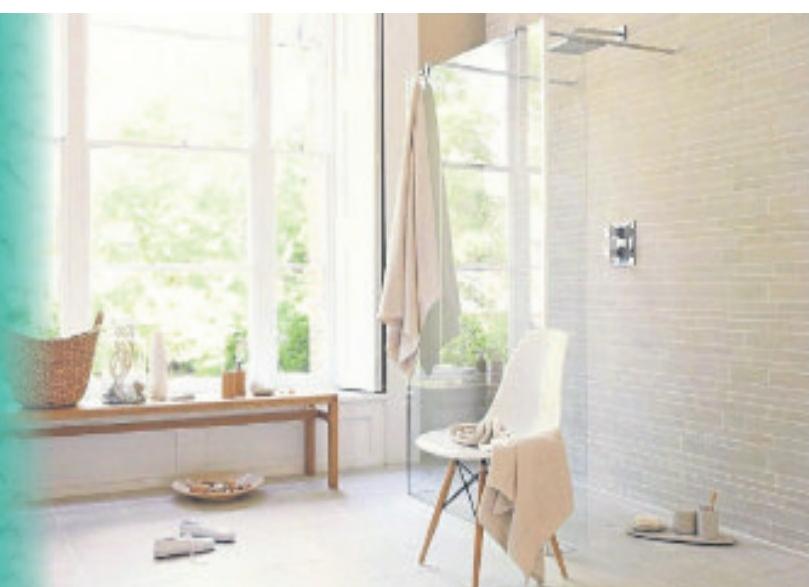
OK I know I am biased being a Wolves fan – not a real supporter as my Chesterfield-supporting colleague points out, as if I was I would put my money where my mouth is and pay money to watch the team, whatever the weather – point taken I suppose. His take is that the noise has risen from all the 'fans' who have jumped on board the Premier league bandwagon. Sounds like sour grapes to me – after all which division are Chesterfield in again?

Boss Nuno and his players remarked on the difference playing in front of a partisan crowd can make. Nuno said: "Our fans are special and we appreciate it."

And captain Conor Coady has reinforced that. In fact I am sure he would love to shout his thanks to all the fans – from the rooftops. And it's not just in the stands and on the pitch where the feel-good factor has shone out. For all those people who watched the Championship-winning parade bus travel through Wolverhampton and went to the following party in the park it was awe-inspiring. Something that all the fans – and those who maybe for financial or other reasons – do not get to see all the matches a chance to see the players and rejoice. Evidently, this has a positive knock-on effect for the rest of the city, too.

I was present in Queen Square for the Championship celebrations and the noise was also deafening. Names called out, songs sung and a lovely warm feeling that swept the whole city along. Why would you want to keep quiet about that?

SUE ATTWATER



Brexit will hasten global warming

HAVING received stark warnings of the consequences of global warming and seeing the devastation in America, the Pacific and even in the Mediterranean, I would have thought that the developed nations would take whatever actions are necessary to avoid such consequences.

Here in Britain we are about to take actions that will undoubtedly accelerate global warming.

The 'Brexiters' conveniently overlook the impact of global trade on the environment.

Within the EU, much of our trade trav-

Vigilante culture on rise due to cuts

WE don't need to be told how lawlessness has taken hold in this country, we already know.

My concern is what happens when we have a culture of vigilantes because we can't believe or see any kind of change to our laws.

Shortly we won't have a police force because no-one will want the job with all the cuts and even the police are being attacked.

This country is a mess because people at the top, the high earners, are not doing their jobs.

I think that we should ask them to resign. We should have a debate, then we might see action.

We can't keep plodding on doing nothing.

JUDITH FISHER
Tividale

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.



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If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, House 1, Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG.

No profit in cleaning up oceans, so super-rich are not interested

IT really is a funny old world (in a sad way). We are sucking the oil out of the earth, we are destroying rain forests, we could blow up small countries with nuclear weapons and are destroying the planet with loss of the ozone.

We are destroying our oceans by depleting its fish stocks. There is even an individual who is spending billions to get man to Mars and is building a shuttle for the super rich to go on jollies in space.

Yet governments, companies, and su-

per-rich individuals cannot, or will not, clean up our oceans of the plastics which man put in there. If we can dredge and plunder our oceans for fish, gas and oil, we can – and should – remove the plastics that are killing our oceans and our planet.

The reason governments and the rich will not do this is purely because there is nothing in it for them. Why must everything be wrapped in plastic?!

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Hospital was first class

I want to try and put a more positive side to the treatment I have received at Russells Hall Hospital because (I am sure I am not alone when I say) I have received first class treatment.

In fact, I am still astounded at how quickly I was dealt with. Visit GP, blood test, hospital visit for test and X-ray, doctor diagnosed problem, biopsy, diagnosis confirmed, drugs provided, specialist seen. All this took place between August 21 and September 13.

I am still reeling at the speed and efficiency of the treatment I received, so I would like to think that some positive comments alongside the negative can be reported, as we have so much bad news that a little good may be appreciated. Where would we be without these wonderful people who man our hospitals 24 hours a day? Thank you.

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8 Pop star Becky is forced to postpone tour

POP star and former Bewdley barmaid Becky Hill has been forced to cancel the remainder of her UK tour on doctor's orders after pulling out of her Thursday night show in Leeds last week.

It was a tumultuous week for Hill who performed outside Manchester's O2 Academy venue the previous Tuesday in a bid to ease the disappointment of fans after the gig was cancelled due to a burst pipe.

The former contestant on TV's The Voice, who was mentored by Jessie J, then had to call off her Leeds gig due to problems with her voice, which also meant cancellation of Friday's Birmingham O2 Institute gig and concerts in Nottingham, Bristol and London.

In a message to fans via Twitter, she said: "I've just left the specialist ENT clinic and I'm so gutted to say this but I'm having to postpone the rest of my tour. The doctor has put me on full vocal rest to recover."

But she did promise to reschedule the shows, adding: "These shows are 100 per cent being rescheduled so please hold on to your tickets and await further news in the next few days. I'm so, so sorry but I promise you the rescheduled dates are gonna be the best vocal performances ever."

The singer has appeared on a string of hit dance tracks since her breakthrough on The Voice in 2012. Her most recent hit is Back & Forth with MK and Jonas Blue.

Ex-Albion director and E&S writer dies

FORMER West Bromwich Albion director and head of ITV Sport Jeff Farmer has died aged 79.

Born in West Bromwich, Mr Farmer was a non-executive director and PR consultant for the Baggies for seven years in the 2000s. He was also a former Express & Star journalist, and reported extensively on the Baggies in the 1960s and 70s.



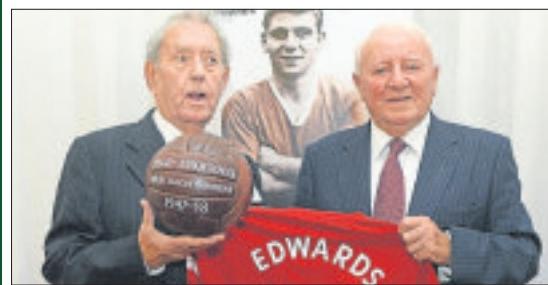
The Duncan Edwards tribute dinner was held at the Copthorne Hotel, to mark 60 years since his death following the Munich air disaster



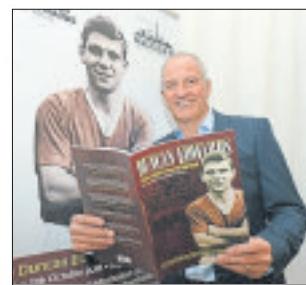
Halesowen Town President Colin Brookes with daughter club chairman Karen Brookes



Duncan's relatives with Manchester United representatives including former star player Nicky Butt, United's head youth coach



Relative Gordon Edwards at the dinner with former Wolves, Villa, Preston and Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty



Steve Bull with the Duncan Edwards book written by Jim Cadman and Iain McCartney



Manchester United apprentice Dermot Mee with coach Nicky Butt, representing Duncan's former club

Stars join tribute to a legend

FORMER players, friends and family came together to celebrate the life of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards at a tribute dinner.

From his Dudley roots to his championship winning days with Manchester United as a member of the Busby Babes and England caps – the

event paid homage to his lasting legacy. Among the guests for the dinner at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill were former Wolves, Villa, Preston and Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and West Bromwich Albion captain and Welsh International Graham Williams.

They were joined by Manchester United coach Nicky Butt, Wolves legend Steve Bull and Halesowen

Town Football Club president Colin Brookes, a former United apprentice.

Mr Docherty said: "This is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful footballer and most of all a wonderful man. He was the greatest player I played against and that was in an era of some fantastic footballers."

Mr Williams, who served in the army at the same time as Duncan, said: "He was a fantastic footballer

who just seemed so big and powerful. I was a confident player and frightened of no-one but I couldn't see how I could match up to him."

"This is a wonderful tribute to him and as a West Brom man I hope the Black Country is truly proud of as they say today, 'one of our own'."

School friends were at the celebration dinner as well as some of his relatives. Jim Bradley, who attended

Priory Primary School with Duncan, said: "He was a great bloke who was never boastful but could easily have been because he was such an amazing footballer."

"Sadly, we never got to know how good he might have been as he was taken from us too soon but we'll never forget him."

A new book, Black Country Boy to Red Devil, pays homage to Edwards.



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Unit aims for better patient experience



The team at the minor surgery unit at Russells Hall Hospital which will mean fewer patients going into the operating theatre

A NEW £250,000 facility at Russells Hall Hospital will mean patients needing minor surgical procedures will no longer have to go to theatre.

The minor procedure room in the outpatients department is designed to be more comfortable and less overwhelming for patients.

It is also set to free up theatres for more patients who really need them,

while making the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust more efficient.

Injections

Patients who will be treated include those with varicose veins, those needing minor skin excisions, some eye patients having injections and those needing pain management injections without the need for x-rays.

The new facility is expected to be opened at the end of November.

Ned Hobbs, director of operations

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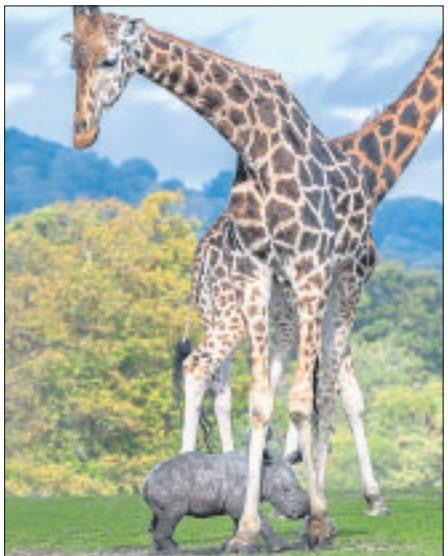


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Baby rhino walking tall at safari park



Granville the baby rhino navigates his way between the legs of his new neighbours at the safari park near Kidderminster

IT'S been a big week for a new baby rhino at West Midland Safari Park, who's been introduced to his family, met his new neighbours and finally been named.

Now, at almost three weeks old, keepers at the attraction have settled on the name Granville – with all babies born at the park in 2018 being given names beginning with G.

Deputy head keeper of ungulates, Ian Nock, said: "The keepers all gave different suggestions for names, but after a vote, the name 'Granville' was a clear winner, as we agreed it really suits his personality. Myself and the other keepers are so pleased little Granville has now managed to meet with the rest of our rhinos and have a play with his brother and half-sister."

"He is already proving to be quite brave with the other animals in the reserve."

"But it always helps when you have a mother who weighs nearly two tonnes close behind you."

Victims can come face-to-face with criminals

VICTIMS of serious crime will be given the chance to come face-to-face with the criminals who offended against them under a new £1.4 million project.

West Midlands Police has launched a restorative justice scheme, in a move crime commissioner David Jamieson says will help victims recover, as well as helping to change offenders' behaviour.

It will be offered only once an offender has been convicted, and the process will be voluntary for both criminals and victims.

Mr Jamieson said he decided to roll out the scheme after hearing the story of Janika Cartwright, who was stabbed eight times by her former partner, Leon Harrison, while she sat in her car outside a Birmingham gym with her nine-month-old baby on the back seat.

Despite one of the stabbings piercing her heart, Ms Cartwright, who was pregnant at the time, survived and took part in a restorative justice programme, meeting Harrison in prison where he is serving seven and a half years. She said:

"Being stabbed repeatedly by the man I loved was the most terrifying experience. I thought I was going to die.

"As I recovered from open heart surgery I soon realised the wounds from that afternoon weren't just physical. They were going to have a lasting psychological impact too. That is why I fought to get the answers from the person who tried to kill me.

"I felt it would help me come to terms with what had happened. Restorative justice gave me some closure. Without it I can't imagine how I would have come to terms with what happened."

The three-year scheme will be run by Remedi, a West Midlands based group.

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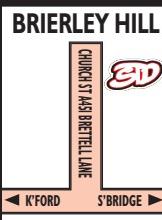
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Satellite technology to identify water leaks

WATER company Severn Trent has invested in drone and satellite technology as it pledges to reduce leaks by 15 per cent by 2025.

It comes as MPs call for tougher targets for cutting leaks after figures showed a 'shocking' three billion litres are lost each day.

Water industry targets to reduce leakage by 15 per cent by 2025 are 'not ambitious enough', said the House of Commons Environment Committee.

Pressure on companies to act should be increased by bringing forward from 2050 to 2040 the goal of halving the amount of water lost, said the committee in a report.

The report also backed new powers for water companies to introduce compulsory metering, even though it could lead to 'significant' bill increases in some areas.

Gushed

Earlier this year there was a huge flood in Wednesbury, on Leabrook North Road. Some 10 million litres of water gushed out of a pipe and spread over roads, gardens and into houses and nearby businesses after being damaged by contractors installing an electricity cable. One woman was rescued from a house and another man broke a wrist after falling down a hole.

Stuart Henry, for Severn Trent, said: "Over the last decade we've reduced leakage by 20 per cent and are looking to reduce it by a further 15 per cent in the five years to 2025."

"We have invested in drone and satellite technology to help us spot leaks and have announced multi-million pound plans to install new monitors and pressure devices in our pipes to help prevent bursts before they occur."



Rescue teams checking submerged cars during the Wednesbury floods

Ambulance service uni link

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service

is set to become the first University NHS Foundation Trust in the country.

A consultation will be held by the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust over the planned changes, which would only affect its name, to mark its partnership with the University of Wolverhampton.

The cost of implementation will be

'minimal' and an agreement will be signed to use the title 'university' in the trust name if the consultation is positive."

Consultation runs to October 26.

Trust chairman Sir Graham Meldrum said: "This is an exciting development that allows us to articulate our position in the ambulance sector going forward."

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14 Party time at Halloween craft events

HALLOWEEN has never been so arty, thanks to a series of workshops and themed fun days in the West Midlands.

A number of events are planned at the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Museum throughout October half term.

It starts with a two-hour Halloween-themed jewellery workshop at the Glass Cone on October 29, followed by an In the Day of the Dead Glass Fusion session on October 30.

There will also be a trick and treat around the site on October 31, where children can visit the site in their fancy dress, create a goody bag and then go trick or treating.

Finally, on November 2 the cone will be hosting its very own Day of the Dead which will include crafts, trail and glass blowing demonstrations.

While over at Dudley Archives there will be a Monster Mash Day on October 30 with fun crafts and activities with a spooky theme.

Councillor Keiran Casey said: "There's lots to do for children and families at our museums this half-term, with drop-in crafts, fused glass sessions and themed fun days. The Day of the Dead activities in particular will give children the chance to enjoy getting creative in a riot of colours in a range of materials."

Teenager is charged with taxi robberies

A TEENAGER has been charged following a series of robberies on taxi drivers in Dudley and Sandwell which took place between October 10 and 12. A 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court on Saturday, where he pleaded not guilty to two charges of attempted robbery and three charges of robbery.

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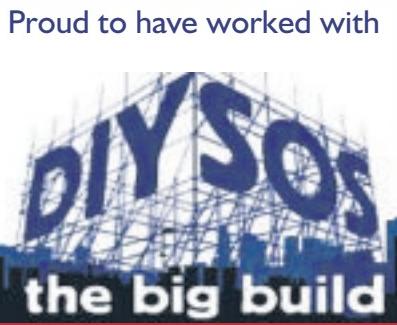
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Leader hits out at lack of Games social homes

THE number of homes built for the 2022 Commonwealth Games development and then turned into social or affordable housing is 'very low', a council chief says.

Birmingham City Council leader Councillor Ian Ward said the funding deal made with the government over the village did not allow for many homes to be converted.

It was announced at the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham that the government would be providing £165 million in funding to help build the new Athletes Village in Perry Barr ready for the Games in four years' time.

As well as the accommodation, the money will be used for a wider regeneration of the Perry Barr area, with a further 3,500 homes on top of the 1,500 being built for the village.

Converted

Construction is due to begin next year, with the village being converted into housing once the games finish.

Councillor Ward, speaking on a Commonwealth Games panel, said very few of the initial 1,500 homes would be turned into social or affordable housing, but there was more scope for the homes in Perry Barr.

He said: "In order to make the numbers work to deliver the village there's a very low number of social or affordable houses that will be built in the 1,500 properties."

"But that will be the catalyst for a further 2,000 homes to be built in the neighbouring facility, and we'll look to drive up social and affordable housing off those other 2,000. Our target is 35 per cent social and affordable housing."



Artist's impression of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Village

£60m swim centre legacy

A £60 million aquatics centre for the Commonwealth Games 'will not be a white elephant', it has been claimed.

The 5,000-seater centre, to include an Olympic-sized competition pool, a 25m diving pool, two activity studios, a 12-court sports hall, a 125-station gym, a 25-station ladies-only gym, an indoor cycling studio, a sauna/steam room and a cafe, will then be turned into a leisure centre. Concerns have

been raised about the centre becoming a 'white elephant' post-Games.

But MP Dame Caroline Spelman, who was Environment Secretary during the 2012 Olympics, said: "You won't get a white elephant. You will get a great legacy in Sandwell."

Councillor Ward, Birmingham City Council leader, said Sandwell would be left with the 'best aquatics centre in the country'.

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Tales told of upstairs, downstairs

Stourbridge Ladies

STOURBRIDGE Ladies Society started the autumn programme with an outing by coach to Moreton-in-Marsh, followed by Bourton-on-the-Water. The outing was enjoyed by a large number of members and friends.

The September meeting started with a discussion about outings for next year and members were asked to suggest suitable destinations.

Following this the chairman introduced and welcomed the speaker Pat Boyd. Her talk was entitled 'Upstairs/Downstairs'.

She reminded everyone of the pecking order of the downstairs staff. First came the butler, then the housekeeper and the cook. They were followed by the maids who could have started in domestic service from the age of 12. They would work a 16-hour day starting very early in the morning by cleaning out the fires.

Upstairs was where the family lived. The lady of the house lived a very different life of leisure, although they were totally dependent on their husbands, as on marriage everything they owned became the husband's property.

Following the talk the raffle was drawn. Refreshments were served, with apple pies being enjoyed to celebrate Harvest Time.

On October 30, Alan Thornton will describe what it's like to be a seaside ho-telier.

Home remedies talk was just the tonic

Kingswinford TG

CHRIS Moy began the October meeting by welcoming three visitors who were soon made to feel at home.

She presented flowers to Enid Fennell who was celebrating a special birthday as was Dawn Eley who had requested that instead of flowers she would like to send a donation to a cancer research charity.

Doreen Comley had been presented with flowers at the Wednesday club to mark her significant wedding anniversary.

Sadly, there was news of the death of Pearl Jones who had been a keen and popular member for many years.

Then the fun began. Kate Reynolds talked about home remedies in use before there was a National Health Service and doctors charged for their services.

It was surprising that most knew of the remedies and amazingly some of them were still in use. June Baker won the raffle. The next meeting on November 12 will be a flower arranging demonstration by Linda Hickman.

Margaret's made up at model role

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed everyone to the October 4 meeting at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford, including a visitor and Kassie and Kristie, guest speakers, who are beauty consultants to Boots Number 7 cosmetics.

Business matters were quickly dealt with. Sheila asked everyone going to The Beacon Centre for the Blind for Christmas lunch to pay after the meeting. Tickets for the club's own Christmas party on November 29 will be on sale to members only at the next meeting.

Kassie was very knowledgeable, informative and enthusiastic about the products telling the ladies where, when, why

and demonstrated how to use these products using a very willing model from the club, namely programme organiser Margaret Bayford.

The result got resounding applause from the ladies and Margaret could not wait to show her husband. Kristie handed out a few freebies and using modern technology told members their correct colour tone.

They kindly donated a bag containing expensive products for the raffle which was won by Sylvia. Kath Turner gave the vote of thanks expressing what an enjoyable talk it had been. The next meeting will be on November 1 at 7.45pm, all visitors welcome.

Sutton Park in the spotlight

Black Country Society

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SALE PREVIEW

Saturday 20th - Sunday 28th October
(Tuesday and Thursday late till 8pm)

Dreamworld Furniture would like to invite you to visit our newly refurbished showroom in conjunction with our 35th Anniversary year! In addition to this we are showcasing our fabulous new ranges including **Evonic fires**. Over the years it is our loyal customers that have been fundamental to the mainstay of our business and therefore as a thank you it is our pleasure to offer you following savings during this week, simply show or quote this invite on arrival.



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Simples pleasures as meerkats chase bubbles



The meerkat mob at Dudley Zoo had a blast with the new bubble machine donated by an animal lover

CHEEKY meerkats had a blast bursting bubbles thanks to a generous animal lover who bought a special fun machine for the animals.

The meerkat mob were seen darting around their den at Dudley Zoo chasing the bubbles while popping them with their noses and paws.

The bubble machine was purchased from an Amazon wish list created on the shopping website by Dudley Zoo

Mischiefous

Keeper Josh Luxton was the first to try out the new bubble machine for them and said it was definitely a hit with the mischievous meerkats.

He said: "The meerkats had a great time and were chasing after the bubbles and bursting them, which kept them active."

"It's nice to do an enrichment activity with our animals that doesn't involve food and instead uses other senses."

The bubble machine will also be used as an enrichment device for the Castle Hill attraction's Sumatran tigers, giant anteaters, red pandas and Brazilian tapirs.

Leon Burakowski

The Wizarding World of Brook

Thursday 8th November 6.30 to 8.00 p.m.

Bonfire/firework display/outdoor disco

Leaky Cauldron Café

Hog roast, burgers, samosas and drinks

"Monster Garden" and glow products available

Best dressed witch and wizard competition

Tickets available in advance from the school office

Adult £6.00 Children £4.00

Family ticket £15.00 (2 adults and 2 children)

Tickets available on the gate on the night at £7 per adult and £5 per child. No family tickets available.

No unaccompanied under 18's, ID may be asked for.

This is a walk to event—there will be no parking

Wipers a window into past

Wipers Times, Birmingham Rep

IT'S not the stiff upper lip, it is the ability to chortle in the face of danger that got the average Tommy through the horror of the trenches, suggests Ian Hislop and Nick Newman's play The Wipers Times. It is based on the true story of a First World War comic newspaper produced on a battered printing press in Flanders by a couple of non-commissioned officers, plus a sergeant who had been a printer in civvy street, with contributions from soldiers.

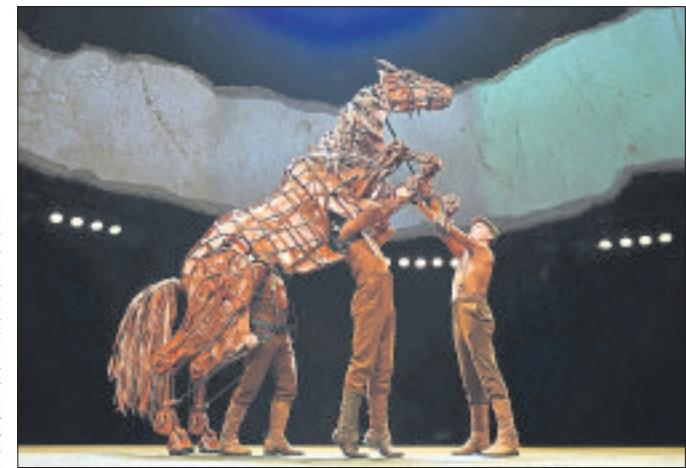
Hislop sees in the Wipers Times (name from mispronouncing Ypres) a similar irreverent brand of humour as that in his own publication, Private Eye, and on the TV show he co-captains, Have I Got News For You.

The story is presented on a sandbagged and barbed wired trench-like set, where the story of the newspaper's survival in the midst of war is punctuated with musical hall style skits based on the original jokes from 1916 to 18, along with the comic songs favoured by the soldiers. There is a strong ensemble performance, though particular credit should go to James Dutton as editor Captain Roberts and George Kemp as his sub-editor Lieutenant Pearson.

There were poignant moments but a sense of humour could not be defeated.

It is a source of pride that whilst 'the Hun' sang a 'Hymn of Hate', the Tommies responded with jokes about sausages. The play has now moved to London.

Leon Burakowski



Back due to demand – War Horse is wowing audiences at Birmingham Hippodrome

Unforgettable War Horse will gallop into your heart

THEATRE REVIEWS

First World War special

huge draw. The Handspring Puppet Company employs incredible skill in the creation of these props but it's the choreography that provides the magic.

Along with the fluidity of the mechanics, all three operators bring the animals to a living, breathing reality. One would be given for forgetting this was a wooden shell adorned with cloth.

Other props were used sparingly and the interaction almost touched on the delicacy and intent of contemporary dance. Clever use of space and lighting provided an expansive backdrop of which this terrible war was fought. War Horse is unforgettable story is of a long lost innocence.

It continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until November 3.

Juliet Hounam

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Weekend of top DJ and leading MC

Sir Cliff Richard returns with a new album and tour



Multi-million selling producer, artist and DJ, Sigala has announced a huge UK tour will celebrate the release of debut album Brighter Days by headlining at Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow night (Friday).

With the record featuring no less than six top 10 singles, fans will get the chance to witness an artist at the top of his game who has achieved so much success, yet remains unusually low key.

"I've made it my mission to stay behind the scenes and let the music do its thing while I live a normal life," he said.

"I've never once been noticed on the street, only at a Sigala concert, obviously. I'm a normal guy with a pretty normal upbringing and I like my privacy."

Then on Saturday, across the city at the O2 Academy, American rapper Rick Ross will aim to live up to his one-time MTV tag as the hottest MC on the scene.

He released his debut single, Hustlin' in 2006, then became the subject of a bidding war, receiving offers from Diddy's Bad Boy Entertainment and Irv Gotti's Murder Inc, before signing a multi-million dollar deal with Jay Z's Def Jam Records.

His first two albums, Port Of Miami and Trilla, both topped the US chart and a decade ago he founded the record label Maybach Music Group, on which he has released six studio albums with the most recent being Rather You Than Me last year.

Few entertainers have enjoyed a career as remarkable as Sir Cliff Richard's.

The evergreen singer has released 103 albums, 123 singles and has spent the equivalent of 20 years in the UK charts. It all began 60 years ago with the hit single Move It.

He was voted Britain's Ultimate Pop Star and will be celebrating his 60th anniversary in the music business on Saturday at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, with his tour 58-18=60 Tour.

The show comes 25 years after his first visit

to Symphony Hall and it will be Sir Cliff's fifth performance at the event.

Sir Cliff has a number of celebrity fans and BBC Radio 2's Ken Bruce has described him as a one-off: "To sustain any career for 60 years is amazing. To do it in the field of music is rare indeed and Cliff has achieved it with style and quality throughout."

Sir Cliff is simply happy to still be around: "I am so happy that I will be doing a tour to celebrate my 60th Anniversary in the music business.

"I cannot believe it is already 10 years since

my 50th Anniversary in 2008 – so much has happened, and I'm very grateful that fans have kept me busy. I am truly delighted to be performing the 58-18=60 Tour . . . I simply can't wait.

"When I started I was 17 and so in those days, the thought of being 60 – well, I don't think we thought we'd reach the age of 60 let alone still be recording."

The tour marks his return after 'years of hell' caused by false sex abuse claims and coincides with his new record, Rise Up, recorded in Miami

Festive fun as trio follow star to Brum

Hugh Dennis, star of Outnumbered, Not Going Out and Mock The Week, stars in new festive comedy The Messiah, which is at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 27, before it heads to London for a West End run.

It also stars opera singer Lesley Garrett and Coventry-born comedy actor John Marquez, best known for his role as PC Joe Penhale in hit ITV series, Doc Martin.

The action centres on a travelling theatre troupe of two actors and a singer who aim to masterfully enact the greatest story ever told. Maurice Rose, played by Dennis, is joined by the alarmingly unpredictable Ronald Bream RAC (Marquez), and the distinguished diva Mrs Doreen Small (Garrett), in a Christmas comedy created by Patrick Barlow, who is also directing, previously had a major West End hit with his affectionate revamp of The 39 Steps.

Dennis agreed to star because of his friendship with Barlow, saying: "Patrick is a very funny man. A very, very funny man. The Messiah is a kind of rewritten revival of a show he did with Jim Broadbent in 1983. I loved the script and I honestly think it's just great. It's about two middle aged men who are putting on a nativity play, and a lot of it's also about angst and loss and midlife crisis. It's a funny piece.

"It's a good team though and Lesley is great. She's lovely. She's very up for it. There's a lot of physical stuff in it. We all have to pretend to be riding camels."

Cliff back on stage

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON

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For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night. So why not come down and have a sing along!!

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SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 21

AT YOUR LEISURE

25

CHOICE



Jenna Coleman

The Cry

(BBC1, 9pm)
Joanna and Alistair try to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the tragic events, but they cannot avoid drifting further and further apart. An unexpected delivery brings long-buried memories flooding back for Joanna, but the revelation calls everything they thought they knew into question as the truth about their child's disappearance finally emerges.

Jenna Coleman, Ewen Leslie, Asher Keddie, Alex Dimitriades, Sophie Kennedy Clark, Markella Kavenagh and Shareena Clanton star.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **8.30 Match of the Day.** (R) 10.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00 Regional Programme.** 11.30 Sunday Morning Live. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 2.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.40 Points of View. 2.55 Songs of Praise. 3.30 Eat Well for Less? (R) 4.30 Invictus Games 2018. 5.30 BBC News. 5.45 Regional Programme. 5.55 Countryfile.
- 6.55 **Doctor Who.** The Doctor and her companions meet black civil rights campaigner Rosa Parks in 1950s Alabama, and discover a plot to change the course of history. Guest starring Vinette Robinson.
- 7.45 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce last night's results, and two more couples face a dance off. With guest judge Alfonso Ribeiro and a performance from Paloma Faith.
- 8.30 **Still Open All Hours.** Granville starts making his own sausages, Gastric turns his mini into a self-driving car, and Eric and Cyril take up rock climbing – but Kath insists they do their training at home.
- 9.00 **The Cry.** Joanna and Alistair drift further apart as they try to rebuild their lives, while an unexpected delivery brings back long-buried memories that change everything. Last in the series.
- 10.00 BBC News.
- 10.20 **Regional Programme.**
- 10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of the one game of the day - Everton v Crystal Palace at Goodison Park. The Toffees recruited manager Marco Silva this summer after a disappointing 2017/18 campaign, and spent £35m to prise Brazilian forward Richardson away from Watford, but their early-season form has been inconsistent. Crystal Palace, meanwhile, will have once again been hoping for a moment of magic from winger Wilfried Zaha.
- 11.15 **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
- 11.50 **The Apprentice.** (R)
- 12.50 **The Apprentice: You're Fired.** (R)
- 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 7.35 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) 12.30 Sweets Made Simple. (R) 1.00 Honey Badgers: Masters of Mayhem – Natural World. (R) 2.00 NFL Live Los Angeles Chargers v Tennessee Titans (Kick-off 2.30pm). 7.00 **The Real T. Rex with Chris Packham.** Chris Packham embarks on a global journey to discover the truth about the Tyrannosaurus rex, which has endured centuries of scientific inaccuracy and Hollywood misrepresentation. The naturalist uses new studies into dinosaur skin, teeth and muscles, as well as groundbreaking insights into its behaviour to create the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever produced. To help, Chris speaks to experts in birds, biomechanics and alligators, and has access to one of the most complete tyrannosaurus rex skeletons in existence. (R)
- 8.00 **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** Simon travels through Libya, visiting areas of the country devastated by recent fighting, and discovers a mountain fortress in Tunisia before crossing the sea to Sicily.
- 9.00 **Last Chance Lawyer New York City.** Howard represents a man accused of murdering children, but Marie and Lena both have misgivings about him taking on such a high profile and controversial case.
- 9.45 **Louis Theroux: Talking to Anorexia.** The reporter meets patients at two of London's largest eating disorder facilities, following them through a daily routine of scheduled eating, weigh-ins and group therapy. (R)
- 10.45 **Live at the Apollo.** Dame Edna Everage presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Desrire Burch and Chris McCausland. (R)
- 11.15 **ITV News: 10 Rillington Place.** (1971) Fact-based thriller telling the story of murderous landlord John Christie. Starring Richard Attenborough and John Hurt.
- 1.20 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) 2.20 Holby City. (R) 3.15 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10 Super 4.** (R) 6.25 Super 4. (R) 6.35 Make It Pop. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Robozuna. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: The Haunted Hallways. (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Knight Magiswield. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 EuroGrand Prix 1918. (R) 9.55 Love Your Home and Garden. (R) 10.50 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) 11.20 Countrywise. (R) 11.50 The Big Audition. (R) 12.45 ITV News; Weather. 12.55 The X Factor. (R) 3.05 Back to Mine. 3.30 Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) 4.30 The Chase. (R) 5.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) 6.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 6.45 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as four celebrity contestants Andi Osho, Mark Ramprakash, Alex Beresford and Jane Moore pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
- 8.00 **The X Factor.** The live shows continue, with the 16 acts selected to go through to impress judges Simon Cowell, Louis Tomlinson, Robbie Williams and Ayda Williams.
- 9.00 **Butterfly.** Maxine attempts to mutilate herself, convincing her parents that she must be allowed to live as a girl. However, her grandmother is appalled by the development.
- 10.00 **ITV News: Weather.**
- 10.20 **Weather from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Documentary looking at extreme weather, including footage of honeymooning Brits caught up in a major storm, and firefighters faced with a freak weather phenomenon. (R)
- 11.15 **Gordon, Gino and Fred: Road Trip.** Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix travel across France in search of ingredients for an oyster festival. (R)
- 12.15 **Strangers.** (R) 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.05 Motorsport: Caterham. **6.35 Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship.** 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Jamie Cooks Italy. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 Film: Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. 3.10 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 4.25 Grand Designs. (R) 5.30 Channel 4 News.
- 6.00 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Build Up.** Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan provide all the context and intrigue ahead of the 18th race of the season.
- 6.40 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live.** Steve Jones presents coverage of the 18th race of the season (Start-time 7.10pm), held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Lewis Hamilton has dominated this race over the years, winning five of the six Grands Prix to be held in Texas, as well as emerging victorious from the last-ever F1 race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway back in 2007. With analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan.
- 9.15 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Reaction.** Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan analyse this evening's race, which served as the 18th round of the season.
- 10.15 **Film: R.I.P.D.** (2013) A cop killed in the line of duty is recruited by a ghostly police force assigned to battle evil spirits. Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Jeff Bridges.
- 12.00 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Gordon Ramsay clashes with the owner of Le Bistro in Florida. (R) 1.05 The Last Leg. Come review of the past seven days. (R) 2.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Including an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R) 2.55 Inside Out Homes. Zac Monro replaces a mock Surrey mansion with a high performance prefab house. (R) 3.50 Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton visits some of Britain's best coastal properties. (R) 4.50 Grand Designs New Zealand. A composer builds a home with a recording studio and performance stage. Last in the series. 5.45 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.50 Countdown. Clive Anderson is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 6.30 Luo Bao Bei. (R) 6.40 Digby Dragon. (R) 6.50 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.00 Thomas & Friends. (R) 7.15 Bob the Builder. (R) 7.25 Rusty Rivets. (R) 7.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.55 Peppa Pig. (R) 8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.15 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight. 8.45 Shimmy and Shine. 9.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 9.35 Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.00 Simply Health Great South Run. 12.00 Friends. (R) 12.30 Friends. (R) 1.00 Friends. (R) 1.30 Friends. (R) 2.00 Friends. (R) 2.30 Friends. (R) 3.00 Friends. (R) 3.30 Friends. (R) 4.00 Friends. (R) 4.25 Friends. (R) 4.55 Film: The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. 5.55 5 News Update.
- 6.00 **Film: The Goonies.** (1985) Concluded.
- 7.00 **Britain's Favourite Biscuit.** Celebrities including Sally Lindsay and Joe Swash reveal their verdict on the best biscuit before the results of a top 20 survey of the nation's favourite is revealed. There is also opportunity to see what copes best in a cuppa as cookies are put through their paces in the dunk test. (R)
- 8.00 **Ice Road Truckers.** Both teams are under pressure as they face one of the shortest seasons on record. Art has to fight to get back on the road after crashing into a snowbank.
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **The Pharaoh in the Suburb: Uncovered.** The story of how fragments of a 36-foot ancient statue depicting the pharaoh Psamtik where discovered in a working class suburb of Cairo. Psamtik's 54-year reign from 664BC had been previously dismissed as a period of decline for Egypt, but the high quality of this statue has led to a reassessment of his rule. The programme reveals how he defended his country from two invasions and may have had a cultural influence on the ancient Greeks.
- 10.00 **Big Brother.**
- 11.35 **TV's Funniest Ever Sketches: Comedy Gold.** (R)
- 1.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Paddington Station 24/7. 48 Hour Meltdown. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00 **Locomotion:** Dan Snow's History of Railways 8.00 James May's Cars of the People 9.00 Royal Opera House: Lessons In Love and Violence 10.35 Feud: Bette and Joan 12.20 Art of France 1.20 Cornwall's Native Poet: Charles Cauley 2.20 James May's Cars of the People 3.20 Close
- ITV2**
- 12.05 **Celebrity Catchphrase:** 1.10 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.15 Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) 3.30 FYI Daily 3.35 Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) 4.10 Film: Casper (1995) 5.10 FYI Daily 5.15 Film: Casper (1995) 6.10 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) 7.10 FYI Daily 7.15 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) 10.00 **Family Guy** 11.25 American Dad!
- 12.25 **The Cleveland Show** 12.50 **The Weekender:** Boat Party 1.50 **Totally Bonkers** Guinness World Records 2.20 Teleshopping 5.50 **ITV2 Nightscreen**
- ITV3**
- 11.25 Agatha Christie's Marple 3.20 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) 5.10 Foyle's War 6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.20 Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) 1.35 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans 2.25 Road to Avonlea 4.10 Murder, She Wrote 5.00 Judge Judy 5.25 **ITV3 Nightscreen**
- ITV4**
- 12.40 **Film: The Alamo** (1960) 2.20 **FYI Daily** 2.25 **Film: The Alamo** (1960) 3.55 Film: Chisum (1970) 4.55 **FYI Daily** 5.00 Film: Chisum (1970) 6.10 **Film: Made in Britain** 7.15 **Film: The Scorpion King** (2002) 8.15 **FYI Daily** 8.20 **Film: The Scorpion King** (2002) 9.00 **Film: RoboCop** (1987) 10.00 **FYI Daily** 10.05 Film: RoboCop (1987) 11.10 **FYI Daily** 11.10 **Film: Total Recall** (1990) 12.10 **FYI Daily** 12.15 Film: Total Recall (1990) 1.25 **BRDC Formula 3 Highlights** 2.25 **Tommy Cooper** 2.50 **ITV4 Nightscreen** 3.00 **Teleshopping**
- E4**
- 1.25 **The Big Bang Theory** 4.50 **Film: Father of the Bride** (1991) 6.55 **Film: Home Alone** (1990) 9.00 **Celebs Go Dating** 10.00 **Club Rep Wars** 11.05 **The Big Bang Theory** 12.05 **FYI First Dates** 1.05 **Celebs Go Dating** 2.10 **Club Rep Wars** 3.05 **Rude Tube** 3.30 **Hollywoods**
- Film4**
- 11.00 **Master of the World** (1961) 1.05 **Dragonball Evolution** (2009) 2.45 **Turner & Hooch** (1989) 4.50 **Carry On Regardless** (1961) 6.35 **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2011) 9.00 **Escape Plan** (2013) 11.15 **Lovelace** (2013)

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The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and

8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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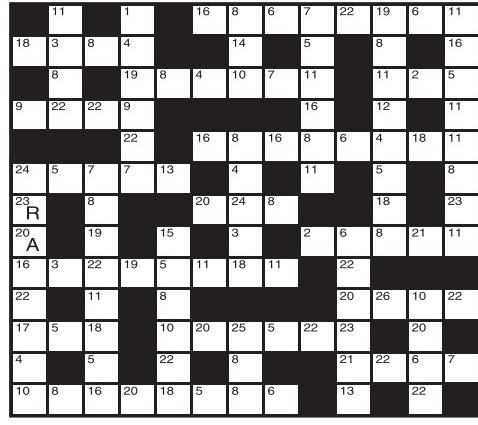
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for
the
price
of
'1'

BRAIN GYM

No.502

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | S | U | D | C | K | J | P | V | W | R | Z | N | A |
| 14 | Q | B | H | F | L | O | G | E | Y | M | X | I | T |

Quiz

- In Greek mythology, who was rejected by Narcissus and pined away, leaving only her voice?
- Edda is the name given to two collections of early literature from which country?
- What is a iota?
- What is the smallest territorial subdivision in Christian church administration?
- With whom did Lord Alfred Douglas have a scandalous affair?
- Who manufactured a typewriter and a rifle that bear his name?
- Which animal's head did the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet have?
- On which lake is the port of Milwaukee?
- What is commemorated in the Jewish festival of Purim?
- Who were voted Best British group at the 2002 Brit Awards?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

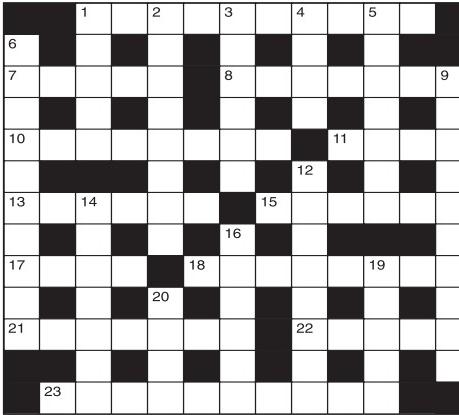
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- An entertaining job for a girl who likes travel (3-7)
- To be paid nothing to fly (5)
- Crooked dealing straightened out (7)
- Put on grave attire? (8)
- Unchanging instruction written in haste to printers (4)
- Cry of the shrike (6)
- It stands still and marks time (6)
- Cut off a weed (4)
- Postal packet that goes overseas (4-4)
- He saves various changes (7)
- Determined to fight (3-2)
- Woman who has no-one to mow her lawn? (5,5)

Down

- Somehow raise a sign on high (5)
- A dredger to be considered (8)
- Pop a question that's somewhat obscure (6)
- A child of two (4)
- Private study (7)
- Solemn character becomes less reckless on a fatal day (10)
- The tide at noon makes a noise (10)
- Carefully examined any leads broken (8)
- Make a successful come-back as an upholsterer? (7)
- It's in one's bones to spoil a fight (6)
- A sign that your car's not working? (2,3)
- Fiddlesticks! (4)



Quick Clues:

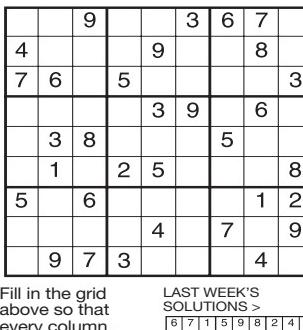
Across

- Witticism (10)
- Redden (5)
- Confound (7)
- Shy (8)
- Measure (4)
- Shorten (10)
- Most certain (6)
- Chief (4)
- Keep (8)
- Learned (7)
- Deduce (5)
- Plunder (5)
- Inventory (4)

Down

- Teems (5)
- Airy (8)
- Transgressor (6)
- Not any (4)
- Allay (7)
- In arrears; 19 Bee; 21 Henna; 22 Epitaph; Down: 1 Stool; 2 Eli; 3 Dome; 4 Wonderfull; 5 Hosanna; 8 Fibres; 11 Signorina; 13 Gadget; 14 Bouncer; 16 Tempo; 18 Ripe; 20 Sty. QUICK - Across: 6 Liberal; 7 Quail; 9 Cow; 10 Stretcher; 12 Deliverance; 15 Story-teller; 17 Provender; 19 Dry; 21 Death; 22 Asperse. Down: 1 Pilot; 2 Bet; 3 Vast; 4 Purchaser; 5 Licence; 8 Reveal; 11 Depravity; 13 Intent; 14 Started; 16 Gross; 18 Else; 20 Wet.

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Stilton; 7 Robot; 9 Pod;
10 Red Indian; 12 Fingerprint; 15 Joined issue;
17 In arrears; 19 Bee; 21 Henna; 22 Epitaph.
Down: 1 Stool; 2 Eli; 3 Dome; 4 Wonderfull;
5 Hosanna; 8 Fibres; 11 Signorina; 13 Gadget;
14 Bouncer; 16 Tempo; 18 Ripe; 20 Sty.

QUIICK - Across: 6 Liberal; 7 Quail; 9 Cow;
10 Stretcher; 12 Deliverance; 15 Story-teller;
17 Provender; 19 Dry; 21 Death; 22 Asperse.
Down: 1 Pilot; 2 Bet; 3 Vast; 4 Purchaser;
5 Licence; 8 Reveal; 11 Depravity; 13 Intent;
14 Started; 16 Gross; 18 Else; 20 Wet.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5753
1298
49681

gives a flower,
gives a second flower,
gives a third flower.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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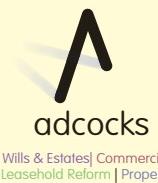
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Bungalow has gardens and grounds of three acres

LOWER PENN
£540,000

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New to the property market, this extremely spacious three-bedroomed detached bungalow in Blackpit Lane, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, stands in gardens and grounds of around three acres.

It is for sale through Bartlams at £540,000 with no chain.

It has an entrance porch and reception hall, an impressive sized lounge with a brick inglenook fireplace and an open fire grate, a separate dining room, a large, open plan sitting room, a kitchen and breakfast area, a inner hall leading to three good sized bedrooms, one with a walk-in wardrobe and shower room/utility and a house bathroom, propane gas central heating and double glazing. There is a huge loft area with potential to convert to additional accommodation (subject to necessary consents).

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Having good amenities, schools and services nearby, 57 Ampleforth Drive, Willenhall, is a smart two-bedroomed modern first floor apartment.

Having communal gardens and parking, it is for sale through Rees Page at £94,950. The property is leasehold and is currently tenanted until February 2019. It has a service charge of £1,211 per annum, with a ground rent of £150 per annum. With majority double glazing and electric heating, this property is centrally located for Willenhall, Wednesfield, Bilston, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The main entrance has an intercom-controlled door into a communal hallway and stairs rise to the first floor.

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Image shows the Meadows exterior

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New generation of Mondeo hybrid models to be launched



The first practical and spacious Mondeo hybrid estate

By Sharon Walters

Ford will enhance the fuel-efficient Mondeo hybrid petrol-electric vehicle range, including the introduction of the first practical and spacious Mondeo hybrid estate from 2019.

The new Mondeo hybrid estate will enable customers who require greater load-carrying capability to benefit from the efficiency and refinement of an electric powertrain in many driving scenarios, while maintaining the driving range and freedom offered by a traditional combustion engine.

Ford will release full specification and pricing for the enhanced Mondeo Hybrid range – which will deliver attractive fuel efficiency and CO₂ emission performance, and a compelling alternative to diesel powertrains for fleet and private customers – closer to its 2019 on-sale date.

The Mondeo hybrid is currently offered in sleek four-door body style, featuring a sports coupe-inspired profile with low roofline, and also as an upscale Mondeo Vignale variant. An estate will strengthen the body style's current 30 per cent mix of total UK Mondeo sales.

"For many customers the practicality offered by a estate body style is an absolute must, so we're excited to announce that from next year those drivers



The enhanced hybrid offers more efficiency

will also be able to reduce their fuel bills using the sophisticated petrol-electric powertrain of our new Mondeo hybrid estate," said Roelant de Waard, Ford European Marketing, Sales and Service vice president.

"Electrified powertrains will continue to play a key role in our European product line-up. Ford is investing \$11 billion and plans to deliver 16 fully electric vehicles within a global portfolio of 40 electrified vehicles by 2022."

The Ford Mondeo Hybrid powertrain uses an electric motor to support the specially-developed 2.0-litre Atkinson cycle petrol engine in driving the wheels, and a generator to enable regenerative charging of the 1.4 kWh lithium-ion, air-cooled, recyclable battery located behind the rear seats. Regenerative braking technology captures up to 90 per cent of the energy normally lost during braking to replenish the battery.

The Mondeo Hybrid is capable of driving in pure electric mode, delivering ultimate refinement and efficiency particularly in city and stop-start driving scenarios. The hybrid powertrain delivers 187PS, supported by a Ford-developed continuously variable automatic transmission for further enhanced fuel efficiency.

Further technologies designed to help drivers optimise efficiency include Ford's Smartgauge interface for monitoring fuel and energy consumption; Electric Power Assisted Steering; and electrically-powered air-conditioning, powertrain cooling and vacuum systems that significantly reduce drag on the engine.

The Mondeo hybrid is assembled alongside the petrol- and diesel-engine Mondeo range at Ford's state-of-the-art facility in Valencia, Spain, and will be UK dealerships in spring 2019.

In summer 2018, a four-door Ford Mondeo hybrid sipped over 123mpg over 80 miles to triumph in Essex's Layer Marney Cup economy trial, local to Ford's Dunton Technical Centre which developed its powertrain.

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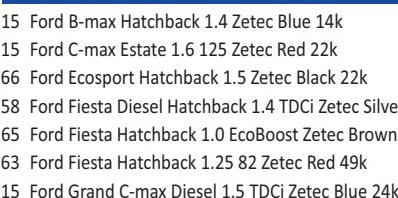
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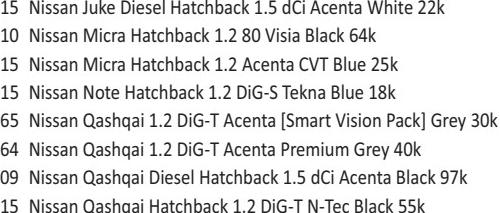
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Corsa GSi offers well-equipped fun

By Ryan Hiron

To a certain generation of enthusiasts, the GSi moniker will hark back bags of nostalgia. The iconic nameplate has graced some of Vauxhall's finest and most sought-after machinery, gaining a reputation as the badge of a working-class hero.

It's been revived this year by the British firm – making its return following a 16-year absence on the Insignia, but it's the latest application that's more akin to its roots. Introducing the Vauxhall Corsa GSi.

Not-quite-but-sort-of replacing the Corsa VXR, this car is the new flagship of the Corsa range – using the chassis of the hatch, but toning things back a bit under the bonnet.

Take a glance at the Vauxhall Corsa GSi, and you could be forgiven for thinking it's a VXR. Not only does it use the chassis of that car, but more or less all of its look too – save for a switch to a single exhaust at the rear.

Rather than a 1.6-litre powerhouse under the bonnet though, this Corsa uses a tweaked version of the firm's 1.4-litre unit. Although remapped for the more performance-focused application, it's down on power compared with its predecessor – but the result is a car designed for younger drivers to run affordably.

As mentioned, you won't find the VXR engine to match the looks in the Corsa GSi, but on paper, its 1.4-litre turbocharged engine still sounds like an intriguing proposition for the hatch. It delivers 148bhp and 220Nm of torque to the front wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox, sending it from 0-60mph in 8.9 seconds with a 129mph top speed possible. As for efficiency, Vauxhall claims 49.6mpg on the combined cycle, along with 139g/km CO₂ emissions.



There are subtle changes inside

Sadly, the engine doesn't quite feel up to the same standard as the chassis. Although flexible, it doesn't deliver the punch the car's looks would suggest and despite being up on power compared to rivals like the Suzuki Swift Sport and Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost, it doesn't feel any quicker than either – let alone the Fiesta ST the GSi is priced around.

The VXR chassis means it's fun when the corners get twisty. There is tons of grip – no doubt as a result of standard-fit Koni selective damping – and, although it may not be as playful as rivals, it just sticks to the tarmac.

As an all-rounder, it remains as usable as the Corsa always has been. Visibility is decent all-round, and steering is light enough in city mode for it to not be a daunting prospect around town.

The Corsa GSi is a car that looks much faster than it really is. Its VXR-based chassis mean it sits lower than the regular car, and a bold body kit – complete with rear wing – gives it an aggressive presence on the road.



The VXR chassis means it's fun when the corners get twisty

Other subtle differences that mark the GSi out include tinted rear windows, a carbon-effect wrap on the grille and wing mirrors – plus LED daytime running lights for no extra cost. As standard, it features 17-inch alloy wheels – but we'd recommend going for the 18-inch option to add to the bolder look.

On offer is the usual boxy, yet sturdy interior trimmings as found on the regular car – with some subtle differences added to separate it from the rest of the range.

Sports-style front seats come as standard (although we'd suggest going for the optional Recaro), as does a flat-bottomed leather steering wheel. The Corsa GSi hasn't seen practicality compromised either – still offering 285 litres of boot space.

On top of all the racey-looking body bits and VXR mechanicals, other standard equipment includes a seven-inch touchscreen system with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, air conditioning, sports-style front seats, cruise control and a heated windscreen. Its low, 20E insurance group make it a tantalising prospect for young drivers.

Perhaps a Vauxhall Corsa GSi is a great choice for the young enthusiast who wants something fun to drive and sporty-looking yet well-equipped and cheap to insure. By those accounts, it ticks all the boxes.

It's a good car in a segment currently full of great ones.

At least room remains for a VXR return....

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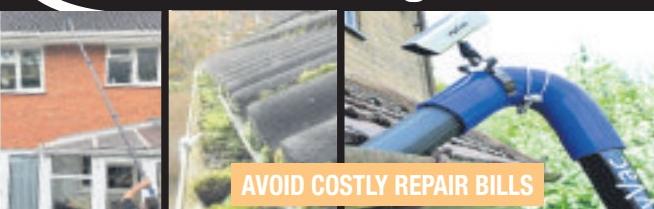
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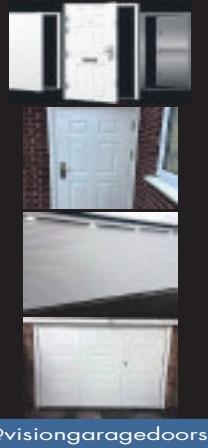
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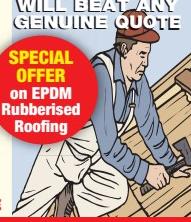


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Antique Fairs

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Blackwell, left, celebrating success with Stourbridge



Blackwell, right during his days with Hednesford



Blackwell tends to an injured player at Halesowen



Blackwell helps an injured player off the pitch

Stewart to debut at world championship

BILSTON'S Elliot Stewart is set to make his debut at the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Judo Championships in November.

Stewart, son of 1988 Olympic bronze medallist Dennis Stewart, lost most of his sight at the start of 2017 and has only been fighting at international level since August 2017.

However, he has already won bronze medals at the Tashkent and Antalya World Cups.

His brother Max is also a high-level judoka and is looking to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. British Judo performance director Nigel Donohue - who has selected an eight-strong squad - said: "As always, we're excited to take on the best in the world at a major championships."

"The standard of visually-impaired judo is improving year on year but our judoka are showing that they are of the level with some fantastic results in this cycle. There's still a lot of hard work to be done but we're confident the results will come."

BDO champ Durrant set for Grand Slam

GLEN Durrant will return to the Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton next month. The British Darts Organisation (BDO) world champion will be part of the 32-player field at Aldersley Leisure Village this year while the Civic Hall undergoes refurbishment.

He will be joined by former Lakeside champion Scott Michell, who will be making his fourth Grand Slam appearance, and Lakeside Championship runner-up Mark McGeeney, who featured in the 2017 tournament.

Duchman Wesley Harms will also return to the Grand Slam for the first time in four years, having previously competed on three occasions.

Newly-crowned World Masters champion Adam Smith-Neale will be making his Wolverhampton debut, along with Jim Williams, Gary Robson and Michael Unterbuecher.

It is the only tournament of the year the two main darts organisations come together - with Professional Darts Corporation world champion Rob Cross and world No.1 Michael van Gerwen set to lead the PDC challenge.

Arena on track for top-class athletics

ATHLETICS returns to the Arena Birmingham in 2019 with two prestigious meetings early in the new year.

British Athletics kick off the indoor season with the SPAR British Athletics Indoor Championships on February 9 and 10. As well as deciding who is crowned one of 26 British champions from the schedule of events, the weekend of action will also determine which athletes represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the European Indoor Championships in Glasgow from March 1-3.

A week after the 63rd renewal of the SPAR indoor championships, superstars of track and field headline the Muller Indoor Grand Prix Birmingham, ranked as the best one-day indoor meeting in the world.

Over the years this meeting has seen British stars such as Sir Mo Farah, Dina Asher-Smith and Laura Muir regularly appear alongside the world's very best athletes and 2019's event will see more world-class head-to-heads expected to compete.

Gavin is still getting them fit for Saturday

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"No matter how much the techniques, facilities, budgets and the nuts and bolts change, though, you still need the right people to implement these and to motivate the players"

YOU would be hard-pressed to find a physio who has been around in non-league longer than Gavin Blackwell.

Having treated thousands of injuries and travelled thousands of miles, Blackwell is now in the 31st season of doing what he loves.

He is out to keep the likes of former Wolves striker Sylvan Ebanks-Blake and ex-Baggie Lee Hughes in tip-top shape at Halesowen Town.

Blackwell has not only taken care of players at The Grove, though. Oldbury United, Stourbridge, Tividale, Hednesford Town, Wolves' academy and Albion reserves have also been the beneficiaries of his thorough work.

Naturally, he has come across many different characters during his time - some will be more than happy to listen to his advice, others are just desperate to be out on the pitch.

"Some had low morale and some needed an arm around the shoulder," he said.

Grumbling

"They weren't all as keen as mustard to play if they had a little niggle. And if a player's not happy you may as well leave him out, because he's going to be grumbling and moaning and using it as an excuse."

"Some always wanted to play. Others are not bothered if it takes another week or two."

Blackwell's mantra is 'keeping the show on the road' and that sometimes means compromises have to be made.

Giving an insight into what the role entails, he said: "The physiotherapist is part of the backroom team."

"At our level, this is using a squad of players of about 16 to 18. A difficult equation and one that doesn't work a great deal of the time."

"There are always at least two long-term injuries who are definitely out of the next game, and a string of running repairs who will play but have to be nursed from training until the last minute."

"Add to that suspensions, simple illness, and you can see that a good deal of juggling goes on."

"Against this background, the physiotherapist has to make clinical judgement in the first place and then understand the manager's dilemma and help to keep the show on the road, with pragmatic compromises."

"The long-term injuries are not up for discussion and are accepted as being non-combatant for the moment."

"The short term, grey area injuries - the slight thigh strain, the slight tweaked ankle, the direct kicks and knocks suffered in training - raise the question 'Fit for Saturday?' and that isn't a criticism, just a statement of fact of how it is, and how it has to be."

Advanced

"The club is in the business of playing football matches, fielding teams and hopefully winning."

Blackwell has had the honour of being part of many successful sides, too.

The Southern League Cup, the Southern League Midland Division title and the Northern Premier League play-offs are just a few things he has been involved in winning over his many years.

Technology has advanced drastically in Blackwell's time as a physio - there are so many ways injuries can be treated now, and steps to take to prevent them.

There only used to be one substitute when he started, too, but things are very different now with up to five allowed in non-league.

But he insists the fundamentals of the role remain the same.

"The more things change the more they stay the same," said Blackwell.

"The progress in surgical procedures have cut down the post-operative physiotherapy dramatically. We have also been helped by advances in surgery, rehabilitation and diagnosis. When I started the only investigation was an x-ray."

"Now we have CT scan, MRI scans, ultrasound scans, and isotope bone scans. Together with surgery advancements, especially to the knee and the anterior cruciate ligament injuries, we have it all."

"No matter how much techniques, facilities, budgets and the nuts and bolts change, though, you still need the right people to implement these and to motivate the players through a sometimes difficult and desperate period in their career."

Slog

In his first 31st year, Blackwood loves the game as much as ever.

He has no plans to call it a day anytime soon and added: "It can be a slog, particularly if things aren't going well."

"Evening training, travelling, playing games going through the range of emotions together can take its toll."

"It can be a 24/7 existence for 10 months of the year. You have to have a certain mindset to deal with it. You become obsessed with the game. I need to be with the team at all times," he added.

"Holidays can only be booked around June time and public holidays, weddings, parties and other social events have to take a back seat. Football is in my blood and it is a way of life."

Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Making sure players fit the bill on matchdays

Page 35



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Glassboys unleash own storm Callum

Stourbridge 2 Royston 1

HIGH winds might have made the match something of a lottery, yet it was a very different Storm Callum which ultimately helped Stourbridge secure a fifth straight win.

Callum Powell's 87th-minute strike was enough to earn the Glassboys a 2-1 win over Royston. It was also the spark for several minutes of madness as Royston boss Steve Castle went to war, first with the officials and then with the crowd, after being sent off for his protests.

The former Blues midfielder's frustrations were understandable, given the fact visiting defender Jordan Norwell-Williams appeared to be clearly fouled by Stour's Luke Benbow in the build-up to the goal.

Yet his reaction, particularly when leaving the pitch, was wholly unnecessary. Castle's loss of cool translated to his team and Stour saw out seven minutes of stoppage time with relative ease, for a result which also extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches.

It was Stour who had led at the break thanks to Robbie Thompson-Brown's goal just moments before the half time whistle.

Stourbridge 4 Bedworth United 1

Glassboys thrashed winless Bedworth United to move up to second in Southern Central.

Greg Mills opened the scoring from the penalty spot after Chekaine Steele was fouled, before Steele turned scorer to double Stourbridge's advantage. Another penalty from Mills made it 3-0 before Steele finished off a Mills cross. Veteran former Coventry City striker Iyseeden Christie pulled one back late on.

Yeltz run comes to a halt in Suffolk

Leiston 4 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN Town's recent good league run came to an end in Suffolk as the home side moved up to fourth place.

The Yeltz were unbeaten in six games heading into the match and hoping to gain ground on the play-off places, only to be denied by two goals in each half.

Jake Reed and Byron Lawrence scored before the break, with Matt Blake and Christy Finch netting from the spot after the interval.

The visitors had got off to the worst possible start by conceding a goal on just 15 seconds when Blake played a through-ball to Reed, who ran through the visiting defence to score.

John Hill's men tried to get back into the game in windy conditions, Tobias Hayles-Docherty shooting over on 11 minutes and then seeing a corner cleared. Reed went close again before Marcus Garnham produced a fine save to deny Lee Hughes at the other end. Then Lawrence made it 2-0 for the home side three minutes before the break.

Stour keep touch with essential victory

Stourbridge 37 Wharfedale 27

STOURBRIDGE triumphed in what was a 'must win' game in front of 500 home fans if they were to keep in touch with the top sides in this highly competitive league.

The visitors played with wind advantage and needed all the might of the forwards for Stour to battle out of their own 22. Then full-back Mark Harrison changed the pattern, stepping on the gas to out pace several defenders to race 70 metres for the first try. Rickie Aley added the extras.

Sustained Stour pressure was rewarded by a penalty which led to George Morgan picking up loose ball to crash over on 12 minutes for the second try, Aley converted.

Wharfedale got a wind-assisted penalty but Stour's domination forced a knock on error by the visitors and Joe Heatley pounced to score the third with Aley's conversion. Wharfedale notched up 12 unanswered points in six minutes.

The Yorkshire side battled on and after 48 minutes it was 21-20 but Aley steadied the ship

with a difficult penalty shot from 28 metre. Stour's well-earned penalties got them the bonus point try on 67 minutes as Dan Rundle scored, converted by Aley. At 31-20 it would seem that Stour could now look to settle but the visitors had other ideas. They could have scored twice had it not been for Mark George. However, it was Jack Blakeney-Edwards who salvaged a bonus point with a self-converted try, after a quick tap penalty on 73 minutes.

Victory was secured after the home side added six more penalty points via the Aley boot.

Longmore's final round heartbreak

THE Darley Moor Road Racing Championship again proved to be a successful hunting ground for Black Country and Staffordshire club racers.

The Stars at Darley final round also attracted some of the biggest names in the business with British Superbike racer Richard Cooper sealing two wins at the biggest meeting of the day.

A certain 23-time TT winner, John McGuinness, was also out on his silver Norton around the Derbyshire circuit.

All the championships had to be decided at the final round with 36 points up for grabs in each single across all classes.

Burntwood's Lloyd Shelley – despite missing more than two months with a back injury – won his race to confirm another Formula 600 title.

Anthony Eades and Wolverhampton passenger Keith Box took the Open Sidecar Championship, as, leading by eight points, their nearest rivals failed to finish.

There was heartbreak for 15-year-old McCauley Longmore, from Coppice Farm, Willenhall, who saw mechanical problems scupper his title hopes.

Chris Moore was able to lift the Classic 350 Championship when his nearest challenger, Dudley's Mark Cockerton, failed to finish the third lap and ended the season second in the championship.

Wednesbury's Neil Lloyd suffered more technical problems, but finished third in the Formula Darley class race.

Runners end up on wrong rural route

IT may have been a wet and windy start to Sunday but Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers braved the weather.

Dave Nation and Elliot Jones headed to the countryside to tackle Pattenham Bells Run. Unfortunately due to a technical error the leading pack of the 10k race ended up on the 5k route. Nation stormed home in fourth place with Jones closely behind in fifth.

Simon Blizzard and Simon Hughes took part in The Great Birmingham Run, 13.1 miles through the city streets. Blizzard put in his best half marathon effort for while, finishing in 01:28:51 whilst Hughes finished in 01:33:56.

★★★

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Andrew Davies' love of two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamahas has shaped his racing career

A LOVE of classic motorbikes has taken Andrew Davies across the UK and around the iconic Isle of Man TT circuit during his 15-year club racing career.

Sitting behind a desk by day, working as a finance director at a Black Country business, Davies spends most of his evenings and weekends in his shed working on race-winning bikes.

His love of two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamahas has shaped his racing career.

"I kept blasting round on the roads and ended up in a hedge one day, so I thought I'd better give track racing a go," says Davies, from Stourbridge.

Won

"After a few track days I got the bug and in my first full season I won the championship, which was the Streetstock 400 for bikes that had an MOT. That was when I bought my first two-stroke TZR 250cc Yamaha but I was up against 400cc four-stroke machines."

"I did that for a couple of years but then some riders started turning up with a one-day MOT, which meant they were pretty much proper race bikes."

"With my budget I didn't stand a chance of winning, despite still coming in the top three. I've always done all my own bike prep and tuned my own engines but I was just spending more and more time working on it just to compete, but it taught me a lot."

The 48-year-old then moved into the Formula 400 class. "I would usually at least get a top 10 finish but then I had a go at the 250GP race class," he said. "Picking up another bike and taking it out against the factory-support teams was a real eye-opener. Again, I was spending so much money on them, especially clutches and tyres, but I was not getting any battles, which is what you want when you're racing."

"I changed back to the Yamaha Past Masters class in 2007, which is what I've stuck with ever since. It's for Rd 350 LC's, YPVS, and TZR 250 bikes and since entering that I've been involved with some brilliant racing because the riders are so evenly matched."

Davies sold that bike in 2009 to Graham Higlett, from Norwich, who went on to win the championship on it twice. "It was me who was maintaining it for him too," said Davies, who then moved into the F400 Sub-64 class in 2010 – for bikes with less than 64 break horsepower – up to 400cc engine size.

"I went also on to win the Sub-64 class championship and carried on with that for a couple

of years. I then moved back to the Yamaha Past Masters class and converted my road bike back into a race bike, finishing in the top five."

Away from the circuits, the lure of racing his prized classic bikes on the roads was too much to ignore. There was no better place to try his hand than at the Classic TT. Despite winning and clocking an average lap speed of 96mph around the iconic 37.73-mile mountain course, he was refused entry in 2015 and forced to drop out in 2016 and 2017 due to operations.

"I came back this year because I knew I was finally 100 per cent fit again," he said. "I increased my lap speed to 98mph despite having a rubbish practice week, blighted by the weather."



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